



"God Bless
America"



THE STREAKPLATE

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE MINERAL CLUB
North Adams, Massachusetts

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 2
February 2010

The next meeting of the Northern Berkshire Mineral Club will be:



DATE: *Sunday, February 21, 2010* **TIME :** *2:00PM*

LOCATION: The Community Room at the Spring Park Apartments,
45 Spring St., North Adams

PROGRAM: Larry Michon and Tyler Ethier will present a program on Meteorites!

- Please bring any meteorite samples you have in your collection!
- All who come to the meteorite presentation this month will receive a piece of a meteorite to take home with them!

REFRESHMENTS: Refreshment will be provided by Marie Grande of Adams, Barb Rowe of South Londonderry, VT and Michael Bobowiec of Stamford, VT



In Memory of James Groves

Past Club President, Jim Groves died Saturday evening, January 16th at his home.

Jim was born in London and immigrated to New York City in 1966. He received his B.S degree from the City College of New York in 1973.

He was an avid reader all his life and especially interested in earth and space sciences as well as science fiction and history. He thought the single most important thing in life was "knowledge". Among his heroes were Thomas Jefferson, Arthur C. Clark, Jane Goodall and Diane Fosse. Jim was religion-free all his life, saying it was both untrue and unnecessary.

Jim came to Savoy with his wife in 1994, with Jim spending only part time in Savoy until his retirement in 2003. He then became president of the Northern Berkshire Mineral Club, secretary of the Pittsfield Stamp Club, member of the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council, the Berkshire Vegetarian Network, as well as being the Savoy librarian.

Jim's wife, Cathy has asked that we join her in honoring him on Saturday, February 20th at 3pm for 15 minutes wherever you are at that time. Cathy told us that Jim had liked the idea of something simple for people that want to remember him. Please take a few minutes on the 20th to remember Jim.

DUES- If you have not paid your Club dues. Please forward to Cindy Hancock ASAP. Thank you!

“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

President:

Dan Washburn
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Vice-President:

Larry Michon
P.O. Box 287

Treasurer:

Cindy Hancock
45 Spring St., Apt. 103
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Sherry Melendy
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Amy Feld
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Lenox, MA 01240 143-637-8237

COMMITTEES:

Programs:

Larry Michon
Vice President, 413-663-8430

Annual Show Committee:

Amy Feld, Cheryl Gasperetti, Jim Groves, Cheryl LeClaire, Bob Michaels, and Larry Michon

Field Trips:

Bob Michaels,
Chairman 413-664-0750

Streakplate Editor:

Lisa A. St. Cyr, 413-664-0750
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VP Larry Michon presents ““Rockhounding the Desert Southwest” at the January meeting.



Copper Minerals

April Program

Looking for a volunteer or volunteer to present a program at the April Meeting. Please contact Larry Michon at 413-663-8430.

UPCOMING...Annual Auction at the March 21st meeting. Donations of specimens and other items needed.

Septarian Nodules



UPCOMING SHOWS- Sure to cure the winter blues!

February 20 & 21, 2010 : 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

17th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale

The New York State Museum, Albany, NY

Vendors from throughout the Northeast display and sell gems, jewelry, minerals, lapidary equipment, fossils, and much more.

Meanwhile on the 1st Floor, staff members conduct guided tours of the mineral and fossil exhibitions and are on hand to identify visitors' own minerals and fossils. *Call 518-474-5877 for information about times and locations.*

\$6 entrance fee to the Museum on Saturday and Sunday includes admission to the 17th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale and all New York in Bloom events.

Program located on 4th Floor Gallery □ Admission Fee—\$6/Adult; Children age 12 and under FREE

March 6-7, 2010 : Sat. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m.– 4 p.m.

Jewelry Gem & Mineral Show & Sale

Presented by the Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central CT

Maloney High School, Gravel St. , Meriden, Connecticut

Up to 18 Dealers specializing in: Minerals Gemstones Gem Rough Jewelry Lapidary Demos Metaphysical Crystals Supplies Beads Meteorites Fossils . New kids' activities featuring 3 games (mine maze, geode splitting, fossil dig) with prizes, treasure hunt, educational material, and fluorescent and mineral displays. Live lapidary demonstrations. Refreshments Exhibits Hourly Door Prizes! Free parking

Regular Admission: Adults: \$5 Seniors and Students: \$4 Children 12 & under: FREE

Free mineral specimen with every admission

March 27-28, 2010 : Sat 10-5 & Sun 10-4

Western Mass Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show

Holiday Inn, Ingleside Exit 15, Holyoke, MA.

Sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club- www.cvmineralclub.org . Mineral Arts From Around the World - Minerals • Crystals -Jewelry • Fossils - Gems • Beads • Free Exhibits Lapidary Gem Cutting Demonstration. Admission: \$4 - 12 and under FREE, Active

<p>"When you are in Love you can't fall asleep because reality is better than your dreams." -Dr Seuss</p>	<p>"When I saw you I was afraid to meet you. When I met you I was afraid to kiss you. When I kissed you I was afraid to love you. Now that I love you, I am afraid to lose you." - UNKNOWN</p>	<p>"I love you, not for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you." - Roy Croft</p>	<p>"We were given: Two hands to hold. To legs to walk. Two eyes to see. Two ears to listen. But why only one heart? Because the other was given to someone else. For us to find." -Unknown</p>
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Military I.D. and Scouts in uniform FREE

Gems for your Sweetheart

Diamond (from the ancient Greek ἀδάμας – *adámas*, meaning "unbreakable," "proper," or "unalterable") is one of the best-known and most sought-after gemstones. Diamonds have been known to humankind and used as decorative items since ancient times; some of the earliest references can be traced to India.

Diamond's hardness and high dispersion of light – giving the diamond its characteristic "fire" – make it useful for industrial applications and desirable as jewelry. Diamonds are such a highly traded commodity that multiple organizations have been created for grading and certifying them based on the *four Cs*, which are *carat*, *cut*, *color*, and *clarity*. Other characteristics, such as shape and presence or lack of fluorescence, also affect the desirability and thus the value of a diamond used for jewelry.

Perhaps the most famous use of the diamond in jewelry is in engagement rings, which became popular in the early to mid 1900s due to an advertising campaign by the De Beers company, though diamond rings have been used to symbolize engagements since at least the 15th century. The diamond's high value has also been the driving force behind dictators and revolutionary entities, especially in Africa, using slave and child labor to mine blood diamonds to fund conflicts.

“The soul is placed in the body like a rough diamond, and must be polished, or the luster of it will never appear.”

Sapphire (Greek: σάπφειρος; *sappheiros*) is a gemstone variety of the mineral corundum, an aluminium oxide (α -Al₂O₃), when it is a color other than red, in which case the gem would instead be a ruby. Trace amounts of other elements such as iron, titanium, or chromium can give corundum blue, yellow, pink, purple, orange, or greenish color. Pink-orange corundum are also sapphires, but are instead called *padparadscha*.

Because it is a gemstone, sapphire is commonly worn as jewelry. Sapphire can be found naturally, or manufactured in large crystal boules. Because of its remarkable hardness, sapphire is used in many applications, including infrared optical components, watch crystals, high-durability windows, and wafers for the deposition of semiconductors.

Emeralds are a variety of the mineral beryl (Be₃Al₂(SiO₃)₆) colored green by trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium.^[1] Beryl has a hardness of 7.5 - 8 on the 10 point Mohs scale of mineral hardness.^[1] Most emeralds are highly included, so their toughness (resistance to breakage) is classified as generally poor. The word "emerald" comes (via Middle English: *Emeraude*, imported from Old French: *Émeraude*, and Medieval Latin: *Esmaraldus*) from Latin *smaragdus*, via Greek *smaragdōs* - σμάραγδος ("green gem"), its original source being a Semitic word *izmargad* (זמרגד) or the Sanskrit word, *markan* (मरकत), meaning "emerald" or "green".

A **ruby** is a pink to blood-red gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminium oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium. Its name comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. The ruby is considered one of the four precious stones, together with the sapphire, the emerald, and the diamond.^[1]

Prices of rubies are primarily determined by color. The brightest and most valuable "red" called pigeon blood-red, commands a huge premium over other rubies of similar quality. After color follows clarity: similar to diamonds, a clear stone will command a premium, but a ruby without any needle-like rutile inclusions may indicate that the stone has been treated. Cut and carat (size) also determine the price