



NMC NUGGET

Spring 2016

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy Spring!

I want to welcome you to read and enjoy Nassau Mineral Club's first seasonal e-newsletter. If you don't have internet service, paper copies can be provided on request.

To share ideas for what you'd like to see in future editions, please contact June Miller. We encourage aspiring writers to pen articles. Byline credit is given for all published work!

Dennis Kirchner

OUR LOCATION AND WORK SESSIONS

The Nassau Mineral Club meets every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the lapidary section at Garvies Point Museum in Glen Cove, excluding holidays.

The Museum is located at 60 Barry Drive, Glen Cove, NY and our workshop is downstairs.

Go to: www.nassaumineralclub.org for information.

UPCOMING NMC WORKSHOPS

VIKING WEAVE

May 21, 2016 in the lapidary section at Garvies Point Museum. Kits containing all materials needed will be available for purchase. Diane Angus, lead instructor. Complete the form on the club website or contact Webmistress Sue Goldman to register. Cost of workshop for non-members TBD. Seating is limited.

WIRE WRAPPING

June 4, 2016 in the lapidary section at the Garvies Point Museum.
Tools/materials: Bring wire cutter, scissors, round nose, bent nose and flat needle nose pliers (smooth) and a small or medium size polished cabochon. Participants may bring their own supply of wire for wrapping but wire and cabochons will be available for purchase at the workshop. Joe Austin, lead instructor. Email us at NassauMineralClub@gmail.com to register.
Cost of workshop for non-members TBD. Seating is limited.



NMC Officers 2016-2017

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MINING TRIPS
Nicole Cooper

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SPRING CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SHOWS AND TRIPS

SHOWS

CELINKA GEM SHOW

Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Bead and Jewelry Show

May 14-15, 2016 (10 am-5 pm)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel – 495 North Ocean Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772

LI MINERAL AND GEOLOGY SOCIETY

35th Annual Gem, Min., Jewelry & Fossil Show

July 30-31, 2016 (10am-5 pm)

Cutchogue East Elementary School - 34900 Main Road, Cutchogue, NY 11935

TRIPS

EAST COAST GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW

August 13, 2016

West Springfield, Massachusetts

A fun annual excursion. This huge exhibition by wholesale and retail vendors takes place over several days in August. Club members can drive and stay overnight or go up for one day (8/13/16) by bus. The day trip is organized by the Long Island Mineral and Gem Society (LIMAGS) for four gem clubs on LI. The \$38 round trip bus fare covers admission to the show. There is a stop for dinner at Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Early registration is recommended to ensure a seat on the bus.

Contact: Julie Schwahl (LIMAGS) is coordinating the trip. 631 594-1843 (H); 631 375-4423 (C) Email: castaway8141@hotmail.com

Bus brings travelers to Springfield by 10 am and leaves Springfield for NY at 4:30 pm. Bus stops for dinner at Cracker Barrel and returns to pick up point around 10 pm.

Bus Schedule Stops- August 13, 2016

Pick up time	LIE Exit	Location
6:00 am	Riverhead	Strip Mall Park in Staples lot – close to Rte. # 58
6:30 am	Exit 63	Park and Ride
7:00 am	Exit 49	Park and Ride
7:30 am	Exit 36	Christopher Morley Park – north end lot near dog park

HERKIMER MINE SITE

Nassau Mineral Club shares a “dig” site or claim location, near Herkimer, New York with 4 Long Island clubs. The location is in the Margaret Hastings Herkimer Diamond Claim area. It is accessible beginning early May. NMC pays an annual fee to allow its members access. To ensure the tradition continues, take advantage of the opportunity and arrange a group visit! Note: All plans must be cleared through NMC member Nicole Cooper. AFMS Code of Ethics describes the protocol expected at dig sites. See p.7.

EFMLS WILDACRES WORKSHOPS

EFMLS affiliates have the opportunity to get immersed in the experience of living on campus in Wildacres, N.C. and attend hands-on lap workshops for one week. Tuition is just \$400 (incl. room, board and gratuities to the Wildacres Retreat staff). Sessions in 2016 are May 9-15 and Sept. 5-9. Promo video: www.efmls-wildacres.org Questions? Contact Suzie Milligan, Registrar at smilligan@stny.rr.com or Fran Sick, Director at ednfran@epix.net

Information on other Gem and Mineral shows: <http://www.amfed.org/EFMLS/calendar.htm>

List of Mineral Digs in the Northeast

MINERAL	STATE
QUARTZ CRYSTALS	PENNSYLVANIA
GARNET CRYSTALS	CONNECTICUT
FLUORESCENT MINERALS	NEW JERSEY
GARNET CRYSTALS	ADIRONDACK MTS - NEW YORK
BERYL & PEGMATITE	NEW HAMPSHIRE
HERKIMER DIAMONDS	NEW YORK
PEGMATITE	MAINE
FOSSILS/MINERALS	PENNSYLVANIA

Check out LIMags.com for trip information

PURPOSE OF THE NASSAU MINERAL CLUB: From By-laws: "The purpose of this Corporation shall be to further and promote the study of mineralogy by means of meetings, lectures, exhibitions and field trips; to stimulate interest in all phases of geology, mineralogy, gemology, paleontology and the lapidary arts, and to do any other act or thing incidental to or connected with any of the foregoing or in the advancement thereof, but not for the pecuniary profit or financial gain of its members, directors or officers." (Article II, Section 2.01, 3/13/2000)

Summary of Business Meetings (Jan - April 2016)

LAPIDARY REPORT

Machines must be properly cared for. Some issues: water not turned off, still soggy, unrinsed sponges that cause rust or ruined tabletops, dirty grinding wheels. Every user must be trained to properly clean up every machine s/he uses each time!

SAFETY FIRST

Safety guidelines must be followed consistently. Proper protective gear should be worn when using machinery. Proper use and maintenance of tools and equipment must be reviewed periodically and with all new members.

WEBSITE

Webmistress Sue Goldman announced that the NMC website is up and running. Members are encouraged to visit NassauMineralClub.org to stay connected and informed about club events and updates.

The NMC Gmail account is also in working order. Contact us at NassauMineralClub@gmail.com.

A Letter to the Almighty

A request quite large
To whom ever's in charge.
Can't we correct this mess
of a world in distress?
They fast to the east
at the time of His feast?
Oh no! That will never do.
What's wrong with you?
All I ask is to end it.
Don't try to defend it.
With beliefs full of "hate" (hat-tay)
Yes – it rhymes with pate
a much better word than hate
delivered fresh on your plate.
There's no need to build the tallest steeple.
We need a well intended mix – mélange
a blend – an incorporation of the people.
So someday wars will cease
and then we can finally find peace?
... a poem by Dennis Kirchner

RECENT NMC ACTIVITIES

Island Rockhounds Show @ Old Bethpage Restoration Village



IRS' annual gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry show March 12-13, Nassau Mineral Club covered two exhibit tables with mineral and fossil specimens and beautiful samples of artistic handiwork crafted by its members. Joe A., Leona K., Jim S., Rosemarie W., Diane A., Maria V. and June M. were on hand to invite visitors to look over the wide range of things we do at the club. Twenty people signed up to be notified about future workshops or arrange a future visit to NMC – an encouraging sign. Some highlights: Leona made “teachable moment” handouts with mounted mineral samples



and other science related materials for middle school children. They disappeared as quickly as she put them out! Joe brought a collection of meteorites, amber, fossils and florescent stones which he used to capture the curiosity of children and adults alike. Kids especially enjoyed searching for insects millions of years old still stuck in amber. Their parents were awed by the density of his stony iron samples from outer space and his captivating accounts of meteorite discoveries.

Byzantine Chainmaille Workshop



Diane Angus led a packed workshop Saturday, March 26 at Garvies Point on how to construct a Byzantine chain. When repeated, the six-ring link design forms an ornate, rich pattern that is both strong and attractive. The Byzantine weave often appears in necklaces and bracelets made with precious metal. Diane demonstrated how to create Byzantine



links by using “shower curtain jump rings” - an inspired idea, and she provided much appreciated handouts with written instructions. Kits containing enough copper jump rings to create a 7” length of Byzantine chain were available at the workshop as well as a loom for holding chainmaille.

Scrimshaw Workshop

On Saturday, April 9, expert John King from SG&MC gave a workshop to NMC participants on the art of creating scrimshaw. He brought a display of work to illustrate different techniques and reviewed the kinds of mediums used through the ages by different cultures, noting that ivory is now outlawed for sale or resale in many parts of the world. The class had first-timers and experienced practitioners but at the end of the workshop everyone managed to create unique pieces of scrimshaw which revealed the ingenuity of their creators.

For further information or questions on upcoming events, contact us at NassauMineralClub@gmail.com



NMC TIP SHEET

WAYS TO IDENTIFY YOUR COLLECTION OF MINERALS

– (from NMC ARCHIVES)

1. Color – Any variations?
2. Luster – How is light reflected? Metallic?
3. Opacity – Transparent, Translucent, Opaque?
4. Streak test – What color appears when streaked on unglazed tile?
5. Heft – Is it heavy for its size? (Specific gravity)
6. Hardness – MOHS Scale (#1-10), scratch test
7. Odor?
8. Taste - (Not recommended. Some minerals are toxic!)
9. Feel – Soapy, slippery, harsh?
10. Habit – Crystal formation. How crystals form with one another = “state of aggregation”
11. Cleavage – Perfect cleavage?
12. Fracture – How does it tend to break?
13. Fluorescence – What happens under UV light?
14. Is it magnetic?
15. Chemical Tests – How will the mineral react with certain acids?

After properties 1-15 are recorded, your mineral’s characteristics might lead to grouping it by chemical composition. There are seven major groups including silicates and oxides, the most abundant.

THE AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind – fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public “image” of rockhounds everywhere.