



# THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



*Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom*



## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 52 No. 1

JANUARY 2011

### American Geological Institute

Also find information on our Club Website:

Dr. Pat Leahy, Executive Director of the American Geological Institute, will be our Jan. speaker.

The American Geological Institute (AGI) is a federation of 49 scientific and professional organizations representing literally every aspect of the geosciences and representing more than 120,000 practitioners in the U.S. AGI has outstanding programs focused on K-16 education, a nationally acclaimed Earth Science Week, a Government Affairs program, and a strong public awareness program, highlighted by Earth magazine. In support of practicing geoscience researchers, AGI provides GeoRef, an electronic bibliographic database of more than 3 million references that is available globally through subscriptions. Resources (including minerals), Environment and Hazards are key areas of focus in AGI products and services.

Club members and visitors are wel-

come to join us at the Rabieng Thai restaurant at 5:30 preceding the meeting. Each person will be responsible for her or his own bill. Please contact Sue Marcus at r1haskins @ verizon.net to be included in our reservation. Our meeting will still be at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, starting at 7:45pm.

NOTE: This is a sister restaurant to Duangrats. Both are on Leesburg Pike, so make sure that you go to Rabieng, and if you look at the menu on the website, theirs is on the left top. Menu is on their website: <http://www.duangrats.com>

Rabieng  
5892 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
Telephone: (703) 671-4222  
Facsimile: (703) 820-6206  
email: [info@duangrats.com](mailto:info@duangrats.com)

#### NVMC Schedule:

**24 Jan Dinner with the speaker at 5:30, then General meeting of the NVMC at 7:45pm**

**28 Feb General meeting of the NVMC at 7:45pm**

**28 Mar General meeting and AUCTION of the NVMC at 7:45pm**

#### Inside this issue:

December Minutes, The Prez Says Board meeting	2
Holiday Happen-	3
Pictures, Dec. Mtg. Jan Speaker Bio	4
The Petoskey Stone	5
<b><u>Club information</u></b>	6

### Submit Articles, Art, Announcements

Please consider writing an article or special feature for the newsletter. An article can be about anything related to rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, travel, or combination thereof. If you are not a writer but you like to be creative, consider submitting a puzzle, comic strip, artwork, or photograph.

In general, submitted materials that are received 9 days prior to the club meeting will be included in the next newsletter.

If there is an announcement you would like to make to our club, feel free to send the announcement for publishing in the newsletter. Garage sales, club events (need not be NVMC events, we are happy to announce other meetings or shows that may be of interest to our members.

For announcements, please send exactly what you want published.

**Send materials for publishing to [news.nvmc@gmail.com](mailto:news.nvmc@gmail.com)**

## Dec Meeting Minutes

By *Kathy Hrechka, Secretary*

20 December 2010

President Barry Remer opened the meeting at 8 p.m. Elections were held for club officers for 2011. Elected were:

President - Barry Remer,

Vice-President - Sue Marcus,

Treasurer - Rick Reiber,

Secretary - Kathy Hrechka. The slate of officers received a unanimous vote.

Junior member, Julia Hrechka was awarded a Certificate of Leadership for her outstanding work at the Children's Mini Mines NVMC Show. Alec Brenner was also awarded the same certificate, but was not present at the meeting.



Photo by Sheryl Sims

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. in order for club members to partake in the Holiday party for the evening. Two games were played, and great food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

## The Prez Says

By Barry Remer

This is an excellent time to pause and reflect what our club did last year and is there anything we'd like to continue or change for 2011? It is a tradition in our club for the Board (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Past -President ) to meet and bring to the membership what we suggest in the meeting(s). The membership then discusses the suggestion and votes to accept, reject, or table the issue.

One current issue from our Fieldtrip person is whether or not we can find a way to allow GMU students to attend our field trips. In order for this to happen the students would be members of NVMC. This is because we would have to pay for the EFMLS insurance and membership. Would these students qualify for some form of reduced membership cost?

Another issue is publication of our membership list. What can we do to preserve privacy? Some clubs have mailing lists others do not. Some clubs have a system whereby members can opt in or out of having names, phone numbers, email addresses, etc.

Anyone who wishes to bring forward an issue can bring it to the Board or an individual officer where it can be discussed and then forwarded to the members.

## Board Meeting

The Board will meet on Saturday, January 29, 10:00 A.M. @ Sue Marcus and Roger Haskins Home located at 4411 Marsala Glen Way. Any members who would like to attend please contact Barry at 703-262-0221 or [bsbremer @ comcast.net](mailto:bsbremer@comcast.net) to ensure there is room for all.

## Museum Notice

The Joe and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, University of Richmond Museums notified the club of a special exhibit; Pilgrimage and Faith; Buddhism/Christianity/and Islam. This exhibit is January 28 to May 20, 2011. The internet address is <http://museums.richmond.edu>

## NVMC HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

By Sheryl E Sims

The holidays -- a time for fun, good food, family and friends! In a way, I feel as though we are a family, too. We miss fellow members who aren't with us due to travel, recuperation, or simply other commitments. We pull together to accomplish whatever it is we set out to do -- even if it's just to party! It's in keeping with that spirit, and in true holiday fashion, that the NVMC made merry on the evening of Monday, December 20. Members combined their efforts to set tables, produce a spread that would make any heart, not to mention tummy, happy; and to organize games and gifts.

Racing home from work to pick up Amber, bake a cake, and arrive at the party early, I was not surprised to see many dedicated members already busy setting up. Jim Kostka was outside directing Pat Rehill into a parking space, playfully making sure that he pointed out club President, Barry Remer's car bumper and encouraging her to make contact. After a short business meeting led by Barry, Pat Rehill did a splendid job of providing fun-filled entertain for us, along with assistance from Amber and me. Pat had members write one mystery fact about themselves and put it into a basket. Once all of the cards were collected, Amber and Pat read the cards while club members tried to guess which fact applied to each member. Lot of laughter and jokes followed as we learned some very interesting facts about our fellow club members! I ask you, do you know:

1. Which club member graduated from Transylvania University and is said to have majored in neck-biting? (Barry Remer)
2. Which club member was so wowed by applause that the acting profession was strongly considered for a career choice? (Rick Reiber)
3. Who spent many years as a local ballerina? (Karen Lewis)
4. Who made up her last name? (Joan Karrie)
5. Who worked in the intelligence field for over 40 years? (Lois Dowell)
6. Who loves Hawaiian music? (Dave Wells)
7. Who is an avid field trip participant? (George Reimher)
8. Who loves animals and wants a pet very badly?



(Julia Hrechka)

9. Who knows how to do American Indian dances? (Jim Kostka)
10. Who came out of the closet and admitted being a rock/mineral lover? (Amber)
11. Who paints happy little clouds and trees in Bob Ross fashion? (Sheryl Sims)
12. Who speaks Hungarian? (Dave MacLean)
13. Who is retiring after a long career and hoping to make future writing for the NVMC newsletter? (Holt Apgar)
14. Who authored a civil history book and enjoys walking with their dog of 14 years? (\_\_\_\_?)
15. Who keeps clicking away in unexpected ways (Geiger counter, camera, etc.)? (Logan)

Amber and I, like other club members, are thankful to everyone for the part they played in making for a fun evening and a great club. We especially wish to thank Sue Marcus, who, while unable to attend, still worked her magic and provided us with platters of delicious turkey. She put people in place to keep things rolling as planned in her absence. Last but not least, it was great watching six lucky members collect their centerpieces and to participate in the gift exchange. Closing out our evening, I must say that I got a real kick out of trying to stump club members with a fun rocks, minerals, and gems quiz. Believe me, it much easier to "ask" the questions than it is to "answer" them! Needless to say, each line of tables did a great job answering the questions. So, what do you say—same time, same place, next year? Let's make it a date!



## Pictures from the December meeting by Sheryl E Sims



## Speaker Bio, P. Patrick Leahy, Ph.D.

In March of 2007, Dr. P. Patrick Leahy was named Executive Director of the American Geological Institute (AGI) of Alexandria, Virginia, a nonprofit federation founded in 1948 of 49 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists, and other earth scientists. Prior to his current position, Dr. Leahy served as Associate Director for Geology of the U.S. Geological Survey where he had responsibility for Federal basic earth science programs, which include worldwide earthquake hazards monitoring and research, geologic mapping of land and seafloor resources, volcano and landslide hazards, and assessments of energy and mineral resources. In 2005-2006, Dr. Leahy served as acting Director of the U.S. Geological Survey. Dr. Leahy retired from the U.S. Geological Survey after 33 years having served in various technical and managerial positions. He has authored or co-authored more than 70 publications on a wide array of earth-science topics. Dr. Leahy was born in Troy, New York. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in geology (1968) and geophysics (1970) from Boston College. He received his doctorate in geology (1979) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he specialized in regional ground-water studies and hydraulics. He is both a certified professional hydrogeologist

and professional geologist.

Dr. Leahy is a Fellow and Trustee of the Geological Society of America and a member of the American Geophysical Union, the American Institute of Hydrology (Former President), International Association of Hydrogeologists (Former U.S. President), Sigma XI, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the National Ground Water Association, and the Geological Society of Washington. Dr. Leahy was the recipient of the 1996 Boston College Alumni Association Award of Excellence in Science, the 1995 Alumni Association Fellow in Science for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the 1996 Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award, and the 2006 Department of Interior Distinguished Service Award, and he was recognized by President George W. Bush in 2003 with a Meritorious Senior Executive Award and again in 2007 as a Distinguished Senior Executive. Dr. Leahy received the Khan Medal (the highest award for a non-Afghan citizen awarded by Afghanistan) from President Hamed Karzai. His most recent award was the 2009 John T. Galey, Sr., Memorial Public Service Award from the American Institute of Professional Geologists.

## THE PETOSKEY STONE

RIISING SUN...RAYS OF DAWN...SUNBEAMS OF PROMISE

*By Sheryl E Sims*

**D**id you know that a Petoskey stone is both a rock and a fossil? Composed of fossilized coral, The Petoskey stone is found in the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan, along the beaches of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. It can also be found in rock quarries in Traverse City and Alpena. "The specific fossil coral is found only in the rock strata known as the Alpena Limestone. The Alpena Limestone is part of the Traverse Group of Devonian age."<sup>1</sup> Fragments of coral reefs, they were originally found about 350 million years ago, during the Devonian period<sup>2</sup>. The Petoskey stone is the national stone of Michigan and is easily identified by its six-sided mottled pattern, which clearly shows its coral fossils. These patterns are called eyes. The darker the eyes, the more collectable.

The Petoskey stone got its name from an Ottawa Indian Chief called, Chief Pet-O-Sega. Legend has it that when his French nobleman/fur trading father and Ottawa princess mother married, his mother gave birth to him on the banks of the Kalamazoo River. At sunrise, the rays of sun shone down on his face and his father declared that he would be an important man. He called him Petosegay or Bedosegay, which translated means: rising sun, rays of dawn, or sunbeams of

promise<sup>3</sup>. Years later after his death, around 1873, a city along the bay at Bear Creek, Michigan, was named Petoskey, which is English for Petosegay<sup>4</sup>.

The Petoskey stone is actually a type of calcite and is also known as hexagonaria. (It also has some clay, quartz and /or pyrite in it as well<sup>5</sup>.)

There are about seven species. The species attributed to the Petoskey stone can be found in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, New York, Canada, Germany, England and Asia<sup>6</sup>. It has a hardness from 4 to 5. It's said that the stone looks like limestone when it's dry. However, when polished or wet, its grayish tan surface becomes very shiny, displaying the hexagonal pattern and coral. This stone is a good choice for polishing because it can be easily polished by hand.



1. [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ogs-gimdl-GGPS\\_263213\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ogs-gimdl-GGPS_263213_7.pdf)
2. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petoskey\\_stone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petoskey_stone)
3. Bruce Mueller and William H. Wilde, 2004, The Complete Guide to Petoskey Stones.
4. [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ogs-gimdl-GGPS\\_263213\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ogs-gimdl-GGPS_263213_7.pdf)
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.



NVMC Newsletter Editor  
Robert Winsor  
35740 Roundleaf Ct.  
Round Hill, VA 20141

Phone: 540-751-0922  
Please call between 7pm and 9pm  
E-mail: news.nvmc @ gmail.com



---

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[HTTP://www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)

---

## The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

You can send your Newsletter articles to:

Robert Winsor  
35740 Roundleaf Ct.  
Round Hill, VA 20141

Or via email: news.nvmc @ gmail.com

**Visitors are Always Welcome at our Club Meetings.**

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

**SEND YOUR DUES TO:**

**Rick Reiber  
Treasurer, NVMC  
PO Box 9851  
Alexandria, VA 22304**

**OR  
Bring your dues to the meeting**

**Purpose:** To promote, educate and encourage interest in geology, mineralogy, lapidary arts and related sciences. The society is a member of Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) <http://www.amfed.org/efmls> and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) <http://www.amfed.org>.

**Dues:** Due by 1 January of each year; \$15.00 Individual, \$20.00 Family, and \$6.00 Junior (under 16, sponsored by an adult member).

**Meetings** are held at 7:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (except

May and December\*) at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204. Phone (703) 228-6535. (No meeting in July & August.)

(\*Changes announced in the newsletter.) Snow schedule - Arlington county schools.