

VIRGINIA MINERAL PROJECT

-February Report-

State of the Project

February was an exciting month full of new experiences and opportunities for the VMP. The start of the month saw a week-long trip out to the Tucson Gem and Mineral show to network and talk with organizations and share the project with the broader mineral community. Many people were unaware of the state's great mineral heritage and were excited to see what the VMP could uncover. Once back from Tucson, work resumed on collecting data for the 2020 State Directory. Over 1,000 miles were traveled in February and several key meetings took place to inform the future organization and timeline of the project.

A new Facebook group was developed under the official sponsorship of the VMP, titled: "Virginia Minerals." This new site will be the primary social media page for VMP community members who want to stay updated on Facebook. A regional discussion has also been started by the VMP between the fieldtrip chairmen across Virginia to help develop collaboration and discussion about fieldtrip safety and new opportunities for engagement and collaboration. The month ended with a large data collection of over 70GB of Morefield Mine information provided by Betsy Martin of Richmond.

2020 VMP State Directory Now Available!!

We are excited to announce that the 2020 VMP State Directory has now been released! This is a FREE PDF for the community. Please take some time to look over the document and let us know what you think. This is an evolving document and more information and data will be added and uploaded over time. Send us your suggestions and let us know if you find this useful! Share with your clubs, friends and anyone interested in Virginia rock and mineral collecting!

Download Link: <http://virginiamineralproject.org/docs/VMPDirectory2020-02.pdf>

Monthly Takeaways

- Tucson Gem & Mineral Show: Collected 45 business cards and spoke with leaders/members of Mindat, Rocks and Gems, Mineralogical Record, etc.
- Tucson Beginner's Guide Presentation Developed (Presented at NOVA Club)
- 2020 State Directory out and online as a FREE PDF for the community!
- VMP founder, Thomas Hale, nominated by Eastern Federation as Virginia Ambassador for the federation under Region IV.
- NEW Facebook Group Page developed: Virginia Minerals
- Large Morefield Data Collection added to VMP project files



Looking to March...

The VMP will start off March organizing data collected in Feb. and making the final club introduction presentation to the Virginia Peninsula club in Hampton. From there, the VMP will then be a part of the Montgomery Show in Maryland, staying the entire time and running an educational booth and setting up a display of Virginia minerals! The Maryland trip will be vital in meeting with collectors in the state who have had a history of coming to the Northern quarries and collecting specimens over the years. The VMP plans to collect data and view collections for three days after the show and will then end with a presentation to the Southern Maryland Club. Presentations are also planned with the Farmville-Prince Edward Historical Society, Richmond Club, and Richmond Master Naturalist Clubs. The month will finish with a presentation at the Eastern Federation Banquet during the Catawba show!



Apophyllite, Prehnite & Chalcopyrite

Bull Run Quarry, Virginia

30cm x 5cm x 20cm

Note: Specimen on sale at the Tucson Gem Show. No label was present in the case and owners were not aware this was a Virginia piece until further examination! Possibly collected in the 1970's?

Photo: Thomas Hale

“COLLECT. PRESERVE. EDUCATE.”