

August Report



2022

Looking Ahead...

September is upon us and it is hard to believe the year is wrapping up! September will start with our attendance at the 54th Annual Gem Show of the Shenandoah Valley Gem and Mineral Society. FMVA will be making a major next step as we will be hosting SIX tables full of resources, specimens, and educational exhibits. We are excited to support SVGMS and hope to see you there. FMVA will also start its fall courses for Rockhounding 101 and 102. Cohort three of R101 has already started and the alumni of the previous cohorts are anxious to begin the 102 class! This program has shown to be extremely successful for our organization. The newly formed publication committee will also be meeting in September to begin the logistics work on the next book publication set for summer 2024! We are trying a different look for this monthly report, so please let us know what you think!

Key Accomplishments

- Rockin' PD 2022 has concluded. VTCA, VAST, and FMVA are already working on 2023's quarry locations
- FMVA is set to make full returns on its book publishing by the end of the year! Sales from there on will go towards the next publication.
- Rockhounding 101 Cohort 3 will start in September! Thomas is working on the first 102 course for alumni in October.
- Our August speaker series on the Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar District had an incredible turnout of 85 people at max!
- FMVA has been asked to coordinate with the Department of Education on the upcoming earth science curriculum.
- East Coast Show was a major success. Our team plans to attend in 2023 as an organization!

Questions? Email us!
friendsofmineralogy.virginia@gmail.com

Main Articles



In Memoriam... John Medici

Our dear friend and beloved Virginia trap rock mineral collector, John Medici, passed away in July. While his mineral interests were much broader than VA, we certainly cannot forget the legacy he left behind.



East Coast Show & Dallas Symposium

Thomas, Darryl, and Andy attended the East Coast Show earlier in August and have provided a report and photo slides of the Ann Frazier Collection. Alex provides an update on the recent Dallas Symposium hosted by the Arkenstone.



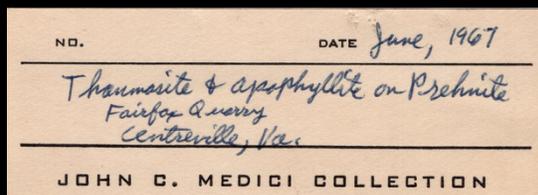
NEW Australia Amethyst Discovery!

Patrick Gundersen of Crystals of Australia has recently discovered a major amethyst deposit! This has been unfolding live on Instagram and we are sharing some of Patrick's photos with you! Follow him on Insta for live updates.

In Memoriam

JOHN MEDICI

(1938 - 2022)

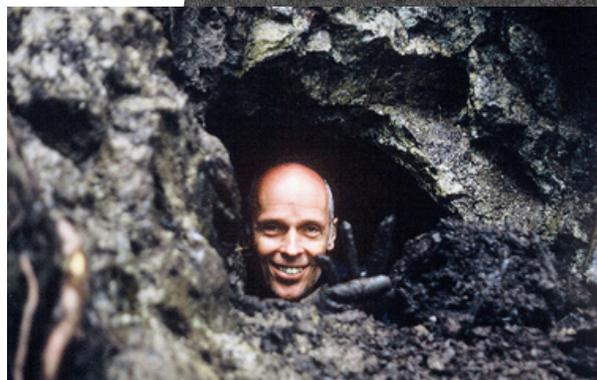


It is with a heavy heart that we report to the Virginia mineral community the passing of John Medici early in July. John worked closely with FMVA on the NOVA Trap Rock publication, providing many great stories and photographs from some of the most famous finds, including the 1967 Isaac Richardson find at Centreville. John was a prolific mineral collector and writer, who was referenced countless times in articles related to the Northern Virginia Trap Rock Quarries. In 2020, he was awarded the Carnegie Mineralogical Award and his collection was recently noted in the Mineralogical Record "EUREKA" edition. His son Jay, continues to be involved in the gem cutting and mineral communities.

John collected the trap rock quarries during his time in Baltimore, MD working for the U.S. Space Program where he worked in extraterrestrial life detection and providing nutritional support for planned Voyager missions to Mars. He then moved up to Ohio where he retired and recently passed. John had collected minerals since 1963 and had never taken a formal course in geology or mineralogy. His most prolific collecting in Virginia was the Bishop Mine Turquoise and NOVA trap rocks. John will be truly missed and we appreciate his final support for our project. Now his stories will live on and be preserved for future generations.

Learn more about John's Legacy:

- [Middlebury Magazine Article](#) (2022)
- [Carnegie Mineralogical Award](#) (2020)
- [Dallas Symposium Speaker Bio](#) (2016)
- May-June 2022 Min Rec "EUREKA" Publication (Pgs. 254-261)





Drawing by Frederick C. Wilda

EAST COAST SHOW REPORT

By: August Dietz & Thomas Hale

On August 12, 13, and 14, *MineralShowsLLC* hosted their annual East Coast Show in Springfield, Massachusetts. Thomas, Andy, and Darryl headed up for the weekend to get a glimpse of the show and see if this would be a premier location for FMVA to attend next year. After three days of incredible success in purchasing mineral specimens, networking with fellow rockhounds, and gaining more knowledge on the show, we are here to say that FMVA will officially be attending this event annually as one of our primary shows. We know this is a far trip, but let us explain why this location and venue is perfect for our work.

First, for those who have never been to Tucson and do not want to fly out that far, the East Coast Show provides an incredible opportunity. Referred to as one of the top five largest gem shows in the country and most certainly on the east coast, it is a premier site for serious collectors. The event draws in many popular mineral dealers and the specimens range here from \$5 up to \$1,000 or even \$10,000+! Most of the specimens that make their way to this event will be traveling to the fall Denver show and before that have come straight from Tucson. While our gem shows in Virginia provide great local material, this is the next level for those wishing to become a long-time collector.

Second, the networking at this event is incredible! We were not the only FM chapter at this event. There were actually six of the nine chapters represented at this event. This means the location is a perfect venue for meeting up and connecting with other FM members. Other individuals who follow our group at a national level were also there, including dealers who were eager to get their hands on our NOVA publication. Even our national president, Mark Jacobson, attends the event! What this means is that the East Coast show provides the perfect opportunity to get the east coast and Midwest chapters together to coordinate and network each year!

So what all does this mean? Well the board of FMVA believes the East Coast show would provide the premier spot to bring all east coast FM members and groups together. It could also be a perfect meeting location for yearly collaborative projects and to host our photography work on the second book publication. The show would also provide incredible experiences in mineral collecting for those who could join us for this event and experience the small Tucson environment on the east coast. Next year, FMVA is going to attempt to get a table for FMVA and for FM National so we can share with the perfect audience more about our organization and its mission. This show would be the perfect way to unite the eastern front of our mineral outreach and solidify stronger relationships with affiliate FM chapters.

EAST COAST

GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW

August 12, 13, 14, 2022

Better Living Center - Eastern States Exposition
West Springfield, Massachusetts

Show Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10AM to 6PM · Sun. 10AM to 5PM
Admission: \$10.00 · Children 12 and under free with adult · Parking \$

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: Presenting 52 cases of the FRAZIER QUARTZ COLLECTION

Guest Speakers · Air-Conditioned Hall · 200 Dealers
NEWLY EXPANDED WHOLESALE SECTION

LLD PRODUCTIONS, INC. 381 East Coast, Venice, FL 34292 · MineralShowsLLC@gmail.com · www.MineralShowsLLC.com

2022 EAST COAST SHOW FLYER

Each year at the East Coast Show there is an incredible mineral exhibit. This year it was the phenomenal **Ann Frazier quartz crystal collection**. Andy, a quartz collector, took tons of great photographs of her displays! While we cannot get across the true beauty through photos, here are some of the displays she had at the show. Zoom in closely to read the placards which have a ton of great educational information about quartz morphologies and different characteristics.

*Ann Frazier (middle checkered shirt)
Photo: East Coast Gem Show*





DALLAS MINERAL COLLECTING SYMPOSIUM

The 2022 Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium, hosted by *The Arkenstone*, was held on August 20th. This event kicks off with a gallery party on Friday evening (August 19th) and then an incredible line up of speakers on Saturday. Sunday there is an open house and pickup for items sold at the earlier auction. Tickets were \$25 for the livestream and proceeds go to the Mineralogical Record, Rocks & Minerals, mindat.org, and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. You can view the talks of the previous symposiums on the website and the recent 2022 talks will be up in the coming weeks. We are lucky to have our vice president, Alex Venzke, working for *The Arkenstone* and continuing to represent FMVA across the country. He was busy prepping for the event but he continues to make our team proud as he networks further into the mineral collecting community. Alex said this year's event was another major success for the symposium!

What is the Dallas Symposium?

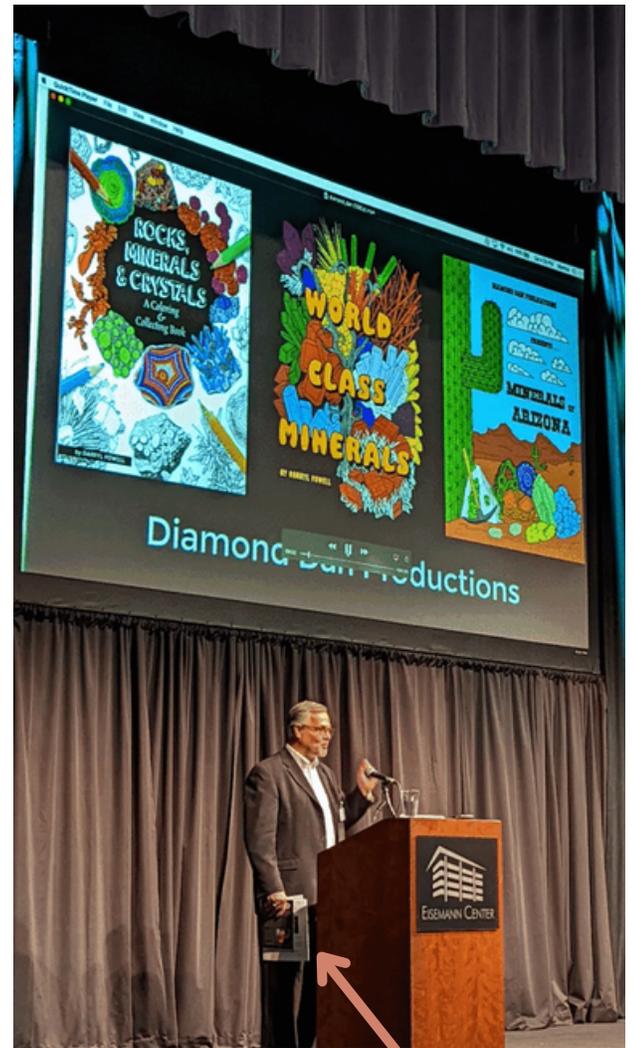
The first Dallas Symposium was unofficially held in 2010 when The Arkenstone held a grand opening for their new gallery. Several prominent mineral experts offered to give talks about their areas of expertise (documented by BlueCap Productions), and it was such a hit that many attendees requested for the education and social experience to continue! The first official Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium was held in 2011 and has continued to grow and enhance the mineral world. Past speakers have ranged from published authors, notable field collectors, and famous dealers who have graciously shared their knowledge and history with attendees. The Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium has quickly risen to become the top educational experience for mineral dealers, collectors, and enthusiasts across the globe. Featuring world-renowned speakers who cover a wide range of topics, the symposium provides a learning opportunity for the newest and most experienced collectors while also giving mineral lovers the chance to mingle and socialize ([Symposium History](#), Arkenstone).

2022 Speakers [Recordings will be online in the coming weeks]

- *Innovations in Fine Mineral Recovery at the Eagle's Nest Mine* by Daniel Trinchillo
- *Hidden Beauty: Underground Discovery Stories from Arizona and Mexico* by Les Presmyk
- *San Diego Treasures and the Legendary Bluecap Discovery at the Queen Mine, San Diego* by Bill Larson
- *Calcite – The Most Collectible Mineral Species* by Terry Huizing
- *Navajun Pyrite – Perfect Symmetry* by Thomas Nagin
- *Criminal Minerals – Investigating Minerals that Break the Laws* by Dr. John Jaszczak
- *Crystal Faces and Crystal Forms* by Dr. John Rakovan



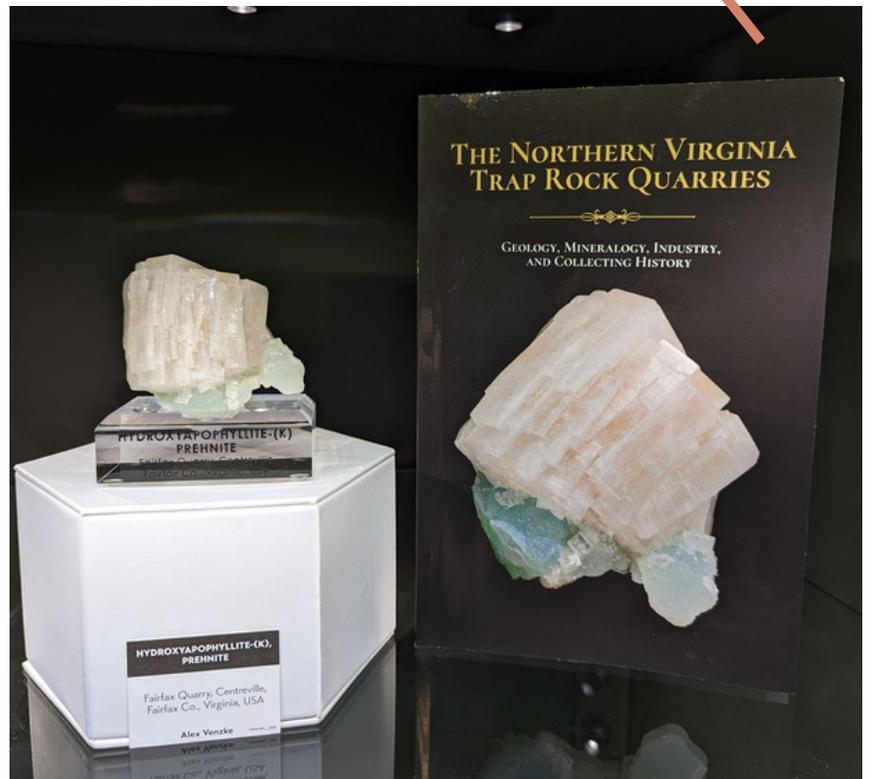
Photo: Tama Higuchi-Roos



Darryl holding one of our book copies during his talk!

Above: Displays at the gallery are nothing short of incredible (photo by Tama Higuchi-Roos)

Right: Alex put the famous front-cover apophyllite on display next to our recent book to show the guests at the symposium! Specimen is from the Rock Currier Collection





NEW MINERAL DISCOVERY: Massive Australian Amethyst Locality!

Crystals of Australia's Patrick Gundersen has taken to Instagram in the last few weeks to announce a one in a lifetime discovery of amethyst from Australia! This includes some of the largest clusters ever found in the country. The deposit is fresh and is currently being mined by his team! This is a hot off the press discovery, so check out a few pics below and follow him [@crystals_of_australia](#) for more updates!! All photos accredited to his team!



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Rockin' PD: Charles City Pit

On July 29, 2022, Branscome Inc. partnered with Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance and Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter Inc. - FMVA Chapter to host a group of teachers from the Virginia Association of Science Teachers for the final trip of the 2022 Rockin' PD. The field trip took place at the Charles City Pit and teachers had a blast learning about the operation and looking at the incredible cobbles that had traveled from across the state and deposited at the pit location. David Matchen, representative for VAST and director of the Virginia Earth Science Teachers Association (VESTA) commented that the diversity of material at the quarry was a geologists' dream!



Rockin' PD 2023 Planning

With the success of the first Rockin' PD trips, VTCA and its partners at FMVA, VAST, and VESTA have all decided to continue the program. The quarry companies were thrilled with 2022's success and engagement, with over 100 teachers visiting sites and engaging with the industry. A special shoutout to Salem Stone Corp., Boxley, Luck Stone, and Branscome for being the first partners in this endeavor. Next year, our quarry sites will take teachers across a similar geologic history across the state, but the sites and companies involved will change to help bring new exposures to teachers and companies who did not participate in 2022. This alliance between industry, teachers, and our organization continues to flourish and we cannot wait to work with more companies and teachers in 2023! One more thanks to all the companies for sharing our work on their social media pages and LinkedIn profiles!



Fall VAST PDI Conference (November 10, 11, & 12)

FMVA and VTCA will be partnering for this year's VAST PDI conference in Williamsburg. Previous years were virtual due to COVID-19, but this will be the first year our two organizations will combine forces. FMVA will assist VTCA with providing rock kits for teachers and handing out one copy of our NOVA Trap Rock book to replace the older materials once provided. Our partners at MSA and Diamond Dan Publications will also be at the event this year with us to help spread more mineralogy and geoscience education! A special thanks to Susan Booth at VAST for helping get us at this event. We cannot wait to interact with hundreds of passionate teachers who keep the workforce going!

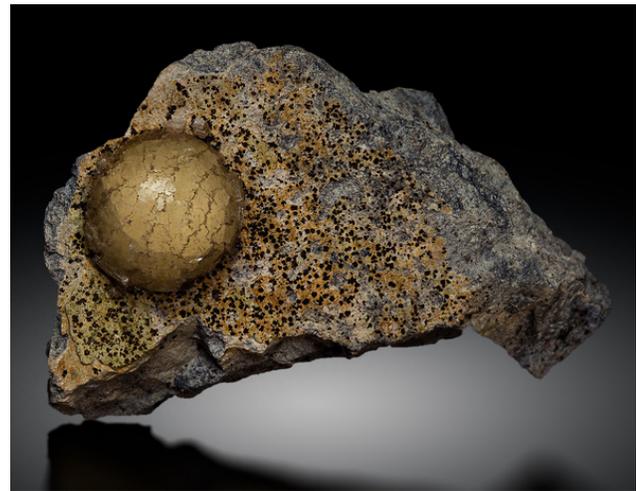
Publication Committee

The publication committee met early in August to discuss next steps after the July book launch. This is our first book publication, so clearly there are things we can improve and enhance in future editions and new publications. Our team is focused on developing a strong planning period which will take place over the remainder of 2022. Starting in January 2023, we will enter our official data collection, interview, and photography period. During 2023, we will reach out to as many collectors, museums, teachers, industry partners, and key stakeholders to ensure our next publication provides a wholistic review of mineral resources in the Piedmont. Near the fall of 2023 and early winter of 2024, official writing will begin with a three month review/edit period. We want to give plenty of time for revisions and feedback from our technical and historical teams. Our goal for the next publication is summer of 2024, but this could be a fall release date depending on the scope of the publication.

Printing options will also be an additional review for FMVA. We were personally pleased with the printing of our first book publication, but we are always looking for ways to enhance quality while making prices reasonable for the public. As before, we will have a central educational theme, and this will cover critical minerals and the role of materials in society. **Our primary interest right now is developing a book on the Piedmont province, which was rich in economic mineral deposits essential to our industry.** The region is still full of aggregate operations, old mine sites, and even a few of the remaining mineral operations in Virginia. Be prepared for us to cover significant locations such as the Amelia Pegmatite District, the Virginia Pyrite-Gold Belt, the Austinville Lead-Zinc District, the American Rutile quarry and other major topics of interest including amethyst deposits of the Piedmont, current aggregate operations, and the kyanite mining district.

Planning Committee Focus Areas

- Timeline Development + Roles/Assignments
- Photography
- Publication Editing/Review
- Interviews + Stakeholder Engagement
- Marketing
- Sales/Cost Analysis
- Industry/Teacher Partnerships
- Technical Reviews
- Thematic Discussions
- Educational Connections & Comparisons
- Measuring Success



It is never too late to start working with us!
If you would like to contribute to future publications or work with our team, please email us at fmvpublications@gmail.com

Community Resources

NEW BOOK ON VIRGINIA TRAP ROCK QUARRIES!



The first major publication on Virginia's mineral resources in thirty years.

This publication combines a detailed review of the region's mineralogical and geological heritage, including a deep dive into the aggregate industry and its importance in society. Through this industry and mineralogy approach, the publication will be immensely useful for teachers, tourists, collectors, and nature enthusiasts wanting to learn more about Virginia's mineralogical history. Biographies of some of the most important people involved in mineral collecting in the trap rock quarries and Virginia's mineral history are presented along with many of their collecting stories, which are published here for the first time.

Why buy this book?

FULL-COLORED IMAGES

The NOVA Trap Rock Quarries publication provides over 100 color photographs to help illustrate the region's beautiful mineral diversity and rich geologic history!

COMMUNITY DRIVEN

Created by the community for the community, this publication is a true passion project for those wanting to preserve the state's mineral resources for future generations!

SPECIMEN IDENTIFICATION

Our team has worked hard to help differentiate between similar mineral species across various quarries. Now you will know the difference between prehnite from Bealeton and Goosecreek. We also include a mineral checklist for each locality.

EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRY RESOURCES

This publication is perfect for teachers looking to find modern information about rocks and minerals in Virginia. Our book provides a template for teachers to educate about the NOVA trap rocks and engage in much broader geology topics!

\$35 PER COPY



6" x 9" Size



144 pages



87 Mineral Species



12 NOVA Quarries

TO PURCHASE, PLEASE EMAIL FMVAPUBLICATIONS@GMAIL.COM



Pyrite

Bargers Quarry
Lexington, Virginia

\$40 LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTS 11" x 17"

MINI MINERS MONTHLY

A Monthly Publication for Young Mineral Collectors



An e-magazine delivered to your inbox every month with information and activities about minerals and mineral collecting for kids of all ages!

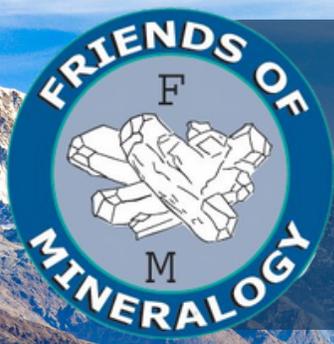
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National News

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By: *Jessica Robertson & Erin Delventhal*



URANINITE - UO_2



ANATASE - TiO_2



PYROLUSITE - $Mn^{4+}O_2$



ILMENITE - $Fe^{2+}TiO_3$



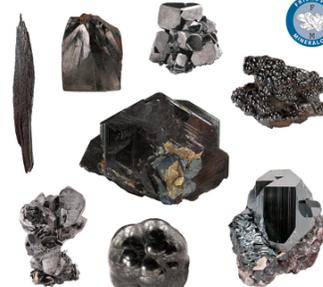
BROOKITE - TiO_2



CASSITERITE - SnO_2



BIXBYITE-(Mn) - $Mn^{3+}_2O_3$



HEMATITE - Fe_2O_3



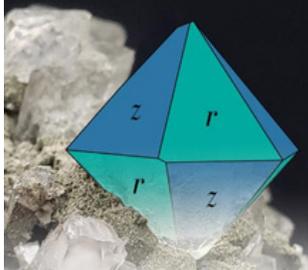
FM Pacific Northwest Chapter Symposium! Oct 14-16

[Learn More Here!](#)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
2022 SYMPOSIUM
CRYSTAL HABITS – THE GOOD & THE BAD
OCTOBER 14-16, 2022

Featuring talks by Rick Kennedy, Erin Delventhal, Frank Ruelicke and More!
Floor and Room Dealers
World Class Mineral Displays
Auctions and Camaraderie

LIVE IN KELSO, WASHINGTON AND ONLINE
Tickets at PNWFM.ORG




Minerals in the News

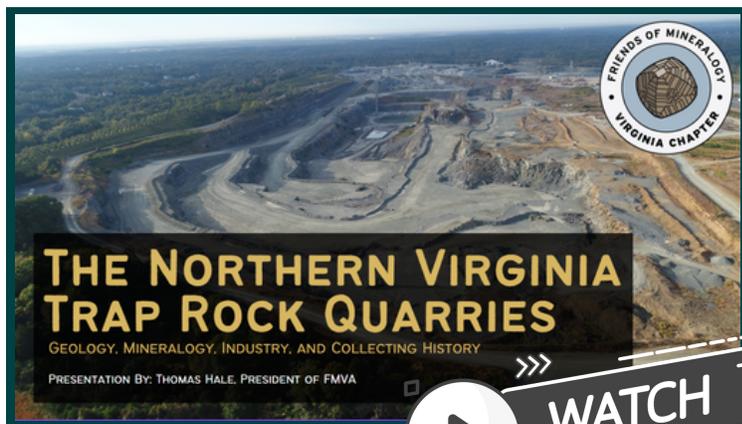
- [DOE Funds Next-Generation Rare Earths Processing Research Collaboration with American Rare Earths and Virginia Tech University.](#)
- [New US Climate Bill Seeks to Bolster Domestic Critical Minerals Supply Chain](#)
- [Chinese investment in Afghanistan's lithium sector: A long shot in the short term](#)
- ['The Taliban Have Picked Up the Resource Curse'](#)
- [Germany, Canada to boost energy, mineral ties as they decarbonize](#)

Figure of the Month:

Projected metals demand increase for EU's 2050 Net-Zero Plan ([European Metals Association, 2022](#))

Lithium	2,109%	Silicon	62%
Dysprosium	433%	Terbium	62%
Cobalt	403%	Copper	51%
Tellurium	277%	Aluminium	43%
Scandium	204%	Tin	28%
Nickel	168%	Germanium	24%
Praseodymium	110%	Molybdenum	22%
Gallium	77%	Lead	22%
Neodymium	66%	Indium	17%
Platinum	64%	Zinc	14%
Iridium	63%	Silver	10%

July Speaker Series



Online Resources

Over 40 online sites on our website!



FMVA Regional Affiliates

VTCA
Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance



Diamond Dan Publications



Join our growing coalition!

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/Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter



www.friendsofmineralogyvirginia.org

The Shenandoah Valley Gem & Mineral Society

◆◆◆ Presents ◆◆◆

The 54th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

The Augusta Expo - 277 Expo Road, Fishersville, VA

Friday 9/16/2022 2 pm - 6 pm

Saturday 9/17/2022 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday 9/18/2022 11 am - 5 pm

For a complete list of current show details & vendors, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/SVGMS-Show-2022>

- ✓ Exhibits from SVGMS members illustrating the beauty & fascinating aspects of the rocks & minerals found in the Shenandoah Valley & around the world
- ✓ Minerals, gems & hand-crafted jewelry offered for sale by vendors from the Shenandoah Valley & beyond (Hint - Get your Christmas shopping done early!)
- ✓ Activities & educational demonstrations for children, home-schoolers, Scouts & families
- ✓ Door prizes contributed by our vendors & members - hourly drawings Saturday & Sunday!
- ✓ Wanna-be-rockhound? Come on out & meet with others who can mentor & guide you into a fascinating hobby!

Admission is \$4.00 for Adults ◆ \$3.00 for Students & Seniors ◆ Children age 12 & under & Scouts in uniform admitted FREE - Admission good for all three days!

