

September Report



2022

Looking Ahead...

September flew by fast, but it was a month full of activities, FMVA updates, and exciting news! The most important item for us to announce was the recent check of **\$10,750** provided by the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance to provide 500 of our NOVA books free for teachers across the state! This is a huge deal for our group and shows our growing relationship with the aggregate sector in Virginia. On top of this financial support, we had a fantastic time at the Shenandoah Show, engaging with over 500+ people, handing out tons of free resources, and even being interviewed on the local news! October will be fairly "slow" when it comes to activities, but we will be preparing for our November events and working on some exciting internal announcements regarding the structure of FMVA going into 2023. Our nonprofit continues to grow, and we cannot wait to finish off the year and move into 2024!

Key Accomplishments

- VTCA provided FMVA with \$10,750 to cover free books for teachers. Thanks to Luck Stone, Vulcan, Cedar Mountain Stone, and Chantilly Crushed Stone for their contributions!
- Thomas has been working with our partners at Boxley and Barger quarry to develop avenues of engagement for 2023.
- The 54th annual Shenandoah Show was a success! We hosted six tables and had a massive amount of engagement from the community.
- FMVA picked up a 1.5ft stack of topographic maps from Virginia Energy to give to the geoscience department at UVA Wise after their lab was flooded earlier this year.
- The annual Willis Mountain Trip was a major success. The weather was beautiful and we found a ton of interesting mineral discoveries!
- Special thanks to the Montgomery Club for providing us with a display case to borrow for the remainder of 2022!

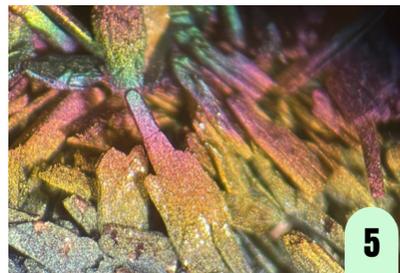
Questions? Email us!
friendsofmineralogy.virginia@gmail.com

Main Articles



54th Annual Shenandoah Gem Show

Another successful show! This year the show expanded into two buildings and there was a lot of great outreach conducted by FMVA! We even got interviewed on the local news!



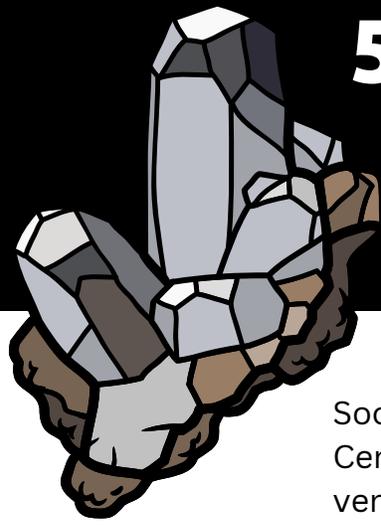
Willis Mountain Kyanite Trip

Our partners at the Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society sure do know how to put on a great field trip. Virginia Kyanite hosted a large group to this annual outing which had perfect weather and tons of great minerals!



NEW: Industry Partnerships

As we continue to grow our industry relationships, we wanted to create a recurring section within our report which highlights our industry partners and important updates we feel you all should be aware of.



54th Annual Shenandoah Gem & Mineral Show Report

Show Team: Thomas Hale, Alex Speer, Anita Colvard

On September 16, 17, and 18, the Shenandoah Valley Gem and Mineral Society hosted their 54th annual gem and mineral show at the Augusta Expo Center in Fishersville, VA. This year, the show expanded into two halls with both vendors, dealers, displays, and community events in full swing!

Thomas has been going to this show since the original development of the Virginia Mineral Project, but this year he was joined by Dr. Alex Speer and Anita Colvard to promote the growth of Friends of Mineralogy Virginia and our expanding outreach exhibits! For the first time, FMVA hosted six tables, with our traveling Classic Virginia Mineral Localities display which draws in the public and the famous "Green Giant" from the Dale Quarry in Chesterfield, VA. Our team interacted with over 500 people during the event and there were many moments that we were happy to have multiple staff as sometimes there were lines of folks waiting to come up to FMVA and speak with us. It is also great to see how Virginia Rockhounding has made a massive impact on the success of shows in Virginia through marketing and outreach.

A massive shout out to both Scott Gregory and Jack Glenn for their phenomenal work in making this show into a success and for our continued impressment of their outreach and social media skills. We cannot wait to be a part of the show again in 2023 and continue to expand the events, dealers, and activities offered during the weekend! FMVA was even interviewed on the local news and had the opportunity to share with the community our work and also promoting local clubs in Virginia!!





Left: Dr. Speer and Thomas speak with Dr. Lance Kearns and Dr. Cindy Kearns. (Jerry Nissley Photo)



Right: FMVA Setup! We sold 30 books and gave out over 300 maps and tons of stickers, cards, and other materials! The free publications table supported by MSA lasted two days!



Left: Dr. Speer's displays are quite the attraction! Folks this year were drawn to both the coal display and quartz oscillators! All of these are a great hit and allow people to pick up and see materials or minerals and their everyday uses!





Willis Mountain Trip (September 2022)

On September 24th from 9:00am - 1:00pm, the Kyanite Mining Corporation at Willis Mountain hosted the Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg and several surrounding clubs to its Willis Mt. Plant operation in Buckingham County, Virginia. The trip had over 100 participants with some of the furthest clubs coming from Delaware, North Carolina, and Boston. The weather was perfect for the field trip and there was an abundance of iridescent hematite which was the main thrill of the hunt for this trip. Folks also had access to tons of beautiful white, grey, to blueish kyanite, with one collector hauling a 100+lb block of blue blades out of the quarry in his truck. As usual...the excuse? It is a "yard rock."

Several interesting mineral species were also discovered at the site this year. Due to recent rains and then a dry spell, there was an abundance of small micro yellow crystals growing all over the rocks and ground. Thomas Dagenhart of FMVA and Northern Virginia Community College tentatively identified this species as **copiapite**, a ferrous-ferric sulfate mineral formed as a byproduct of the weathering of pyrite, which is abundant in the kyanite material. Tom noted it could also be ferricopiapite or aluminocopiapite, which would require more sophisticated testing. This is important because on Mindat there are notes of sulfur crystals being found, which is highly unlikely and this trip proved the species is most likely of the copiapite group!

Another unique item of note was found by Angie S. and Taylor T., two former students of our FMVA Rockhounding 101 program and continuing members of FMVA. They found an unusual blue mineral which had filled in a crack. Mike Morris, the manager of Willis Mountain on site that day, helped the girls get it safely off the piles using a tool and we were all stumped by what the mineral could be! Our thoughts so far are massive grained lazulite or planerite? More testing is needed but we are so happy to see our former students have the eye for these mineralogical oddities!

I am sure you are done with reading this report and would like to see some photographs, so enjoy photos on the next few pages courtesy of our FMVA team (Thomas D., Anita C., Katy J., Taylor D., David F.)



Above: Large boulder of kyanite now turned into someone's "yard rock."

This is what mineral collectors, geologists, and mineralogists look like when we have no clue on what we found but want to spend 20 minutes guessing what it is! ;P





Photos of the "copiapite." Most people were walking over this and did not pay it any attention!

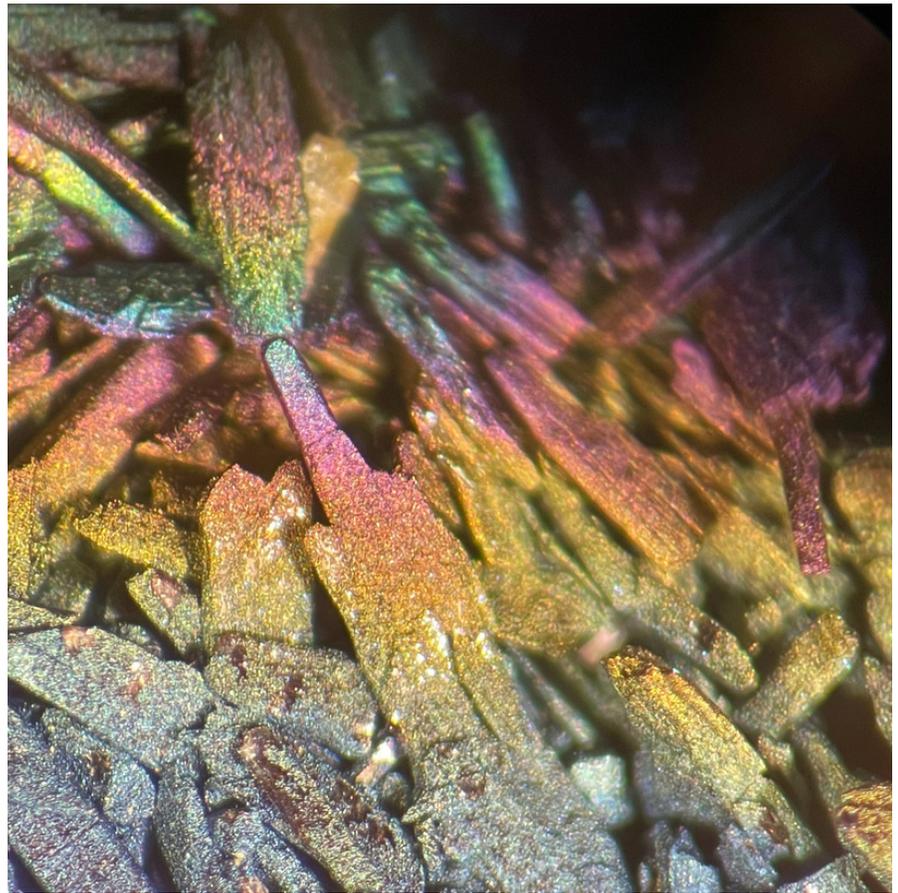
Below David F Photo,



We are unsure of what this is? Any thoughts? Tentative: Lazulite? Planerite?



Left: Thomas and James discussing the finds of the day!



Left: On the way to the mine! Talk about a convoy!

Above: Beautiful up close of kyanite blades coated in iridescent hematite (David Fryauff)



Above: Primary view of the Willis Mountain operation from the main dig site. We did not enter the lower level this year due to safety.

Left: Everyone digging and checking out the remarkable views!

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

VTCA BOOK DONATION: \$10,750

Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance

FMVA set out to develop the NOVA Trap Rock Publication as a new resource for the aggregate industry in highlighting why they are essential actors in society. For years, VTCA had provided an older black and white book by R.V. Dietrich to teachers which did not have direct connections to the aggregate sector as it is today. This recent donation will give 500 teachers copies of a book which they can use to help educate their students about aggregates and society and of course the important connections to minerals. A special thanks to Rob Lanham for making this happen and to our friends at Luck Stone, Vulcan, Cedar Mountain Stone, and Chantilly Crushed Stone for their financial support. This is a big step for our relationship with the industry and we look forward to working closer with companies on the next book releasing in 2024! Now the industry has a modern and beautifully illustrated book that can engage new generations on the exciting field of mining!



NEW Relationships: Boxley & Charles W. Barger & Son

Thomas has recently been meeting with partners at Boxley and Charles W. Barger & Son to discuss future relationships between FMVA and aggregate producers. Initial meetings with Chuck at Barger's Quarry found that the old Allen Pennick article done on the operation was over at the old quarry. Thomas and Chuck discussed some preliminary plans for updating the article to highlight the new quarry and its breathtaking geology and mineralogy. Since our logo is of the Barger Quarry, this felt like a perfect way to build this partnership. In addition to Barger's Quarry, our friends at Boxley (Tom Roller and Josh Wilson) have been showing Thomas how they conduct site visits at their various quarries for local schools and colleges. Last year, Andy got a hold of a well-documented Mt. Athos collection which has a nice suite of identified mineral species with lab reports which could be turned into a publication for the operation and a great educational product for Boxley. Thomas and the team at FMVA will be meeting at Mt. Athos later in October to look at the collection and discuss plans for collaboration in 2023. Our friend and plant manager at Buckingham Slate (part of Boxley and Summit Materials), Spencer Young, also has a wonderful collection he would like to see displayed and curated through FMVA.

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!

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!

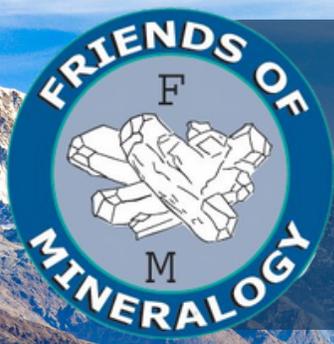
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National News



BAUXITE - Fe & Al HYDROXIDES/OXIDES

: Pacific Museum of Earth. Cluster approximately 10 cm tall; from Cherokee County, Alabama, USA.



Bauxite isn't really a mineral. It's a group term used for a mixture of hydrated aluminum oxides and iron and aluminum oxides and hydroxides that are basically indistinguishable without advanced equipment, so the name remains useful. And it is used frequently, because bauxite is the main ore of aluminum and is the main source of the rare metal gallium. It doesn't have to have the distinctive little nodules as shown in the example in our image, but this texture (aka pisolitic texture) makes it easier to spot, so to speak. (Apologies to tryphobics out there.)

Bauxite forms in weathered soils and because of the clay-type minerals, can liquify in a bulk condition if too much moisture is present. This can be bad news inside of the hold of a ship, because of the "free surface effect" in which the liquid or flowing material inside a partially full compartment or tank can amplify the movement of a ship in the waves and slow the return of the ship to vertical. In heavy seas this can create a positive feedback loop and eventually cause the ship to capsize. In January 2015, the MS Bulk Jupiter sank off the coast of Vietnam carrying 46,400 tons of bauxite cargo; the free surface effect was identified as the cause of the sinking.

NEW FM NATIONAL NEWSLETTER!

↓ DOWNLOAD

[Learn More Here!](#)



To promote, support, protect and expand the collection of mineral specimens and to further the recognition of the scientific, economic and aesthetic value of minerals and collecting mineral specimens.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mark Jacobson

The Denver Gem and Mineral Show® at the Denver Convention Center and its associated but non-allied satellite shows ended recently. The various shows and displays were enjoyable and slightly more active and improved over last year. The Denver show had 45 display cases whereas the area outside the Evolution and AGTA Sparkle & Joy shows had extensive exhibits on gold specimens and shipwreck gold specimens. Add to this an additional 6 displays within the Evolution show and the number of displays is a significant improvement over last year.

From a FM perspective, two displays received the FM National Educational awards, which will be described within the newsletter. In additional three new mineral books have been published, including one organized by the two-year old Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter. Congratulations to the members and volunteer leadership team of FMVA for such a vigorous launch of a chapter.

National is also searching for a new newsletter editor-compiler. The nominating committee for directors at-large will soon be starting their search for candidates for the December-January 2023 board election. We will also need to find a new national secretary and treasurer. None of the executive board positions are meant to be lifetime positions. In February 2024, I will be stepping down as National President, so I too will need to be replaced then. Succession planning for positions has the potential to make an organization run smoother, something I am working towards.

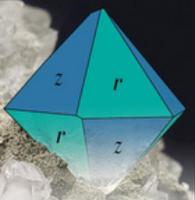
(Continued on page 3)

**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 Ruehlicke and More!
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World Class Mineral Displays
Auctions and Camaraderie

**LIVE IN KELSO, WASHINGTON
AND ONLINE**

Tickets at PNWFM.ORG

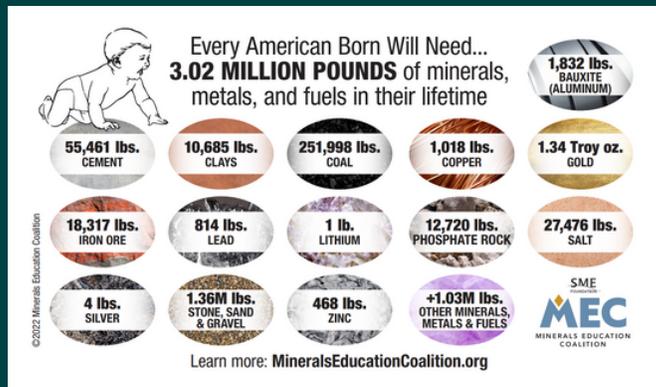



Minerals in the News

- Titanium company, IperionX investing \$82.1M in Halifax County for Ti recycling and processing; 108 jobs expected.
- The critical minerals industry desperately needs new engineers.
- The Inflation Reduction Act Is the Start of Reclaiming Critical Mineral Chains.
- Uranium Risks Becoming the Next Critical Minerals Crisis
- US MINES Act seeks to curb Russia, China grip on critical minerals.
- Minerals Council of Australia releases the futurist edition of 30 Things (FREE PDF).
- New critical mineral mapping projects funding by USGS through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Figure of the Month:

2022 Minerals Baby: How many resources do you use?
Source: Minerals Education Coalition, SME



August Speaker Series



Online Resources

Over 40 online sites on our website!

FMVA Regional Affiliates



Diamond Dan Publications



Join our growing coalition!

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