

VIRGINIA MINERAL PROJECT

-May Report-

State of the Project

Throughout the month of May, the VMP continued to host its virtual community events as a way to stay connected during COVID-19. Each meeting was a success, with average numbers hitting 35 and peaking at 62 Zoom participants. These numbers reflect typical club meetings.

May was also a very important month for the progress of the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter (FMVA) which has now been incorporated and officially a chapter under the national organization. The VMP will continue its work towards a publication as a subcommittee within this new state-wide nonprofit. You can expect official news and information on the new mineralogy organization in June.

Outside community events, interviews and photography have been hindered due to COVID-19. The VMP has now developed a five-year strategic plan which highlights how we will work moving forward, post COVID-19 delay.

Thanks to the community members that have attended these virtual events. Several clubs across VA are now looking into this as we move forward into the summer. If you are still unsure or your organization would like to learn more about these virtual programs, I would be happy to assist!

A special thanks to Scott Duresky and his presentation on Rutherford Mine and the microlite reclassification. It was a huge success and has caught the attention from the larger mineral community.

Looking to June...

June is an important month as things begin to open up into phase two and summer begins to rear its head. Our goal was to provide during times of absence and now we need to be realistic as people make summer plans and travel opens up.

There has been some discussion around the idea of keeping these virtual events as we move into the future. On the off months of the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter meetings, we are working out a plan to keep informal and community sessions open for people to come and enjoy. These would not all be full presentations but would be special topics and conversations for the community.

It's Not All About the Rocks!?

I just wanted to briefly highlight the amount of enjoyment we had from this meeting. Rocks are not our only passion and it was truly a great experience getting to learn about people's other hobbies and even some shared interest outside rocks! I would highly recommend this be a topic at local meetings.

Geology 365 Tutorial



Date: June 17th @ 7pm

RSVP 

Scufflin Acres Amethyst



Date: June 24th @ 7pm

RSVP 

Virtual Presentations Currently on YouTube

- Minerals of the Allah Cooper Mine, Louisa, Virginia
- Network Analysis of Virginia's Mineralogical Systems
- Richmond Vivianite Locality
- Collecting Quartz Crystals in Saltville, Virginia
- The Historic Rutherford Mine Pegmatite (Releasing June 3)

YouTube 

Classic Mineral Localities of Virginia

5-year Strategic Plan

Due to COVID-19 and the inability for travel, data collection for 2019 was less than originally hoped for. We are still needing individuals with specimens and collections to send in their stories as they relate to our classic locations and would like to encourage photographs, even if temporary, of specimens you feel should be put in the publication. During times like these, it is imperative that we continue to work towards the end goal and push through any hurdles that may present themselves. The VMP has developed a new timeline for the development of a new publication on Classic Mineral Localities of Virginia.

This five-year strategic plan highlights the goals and objectives of the Virginia Mineral Project (VMP) and the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter (FMVA) to update and publish a new book on the state's classic mineral localities. Below is a section from the plan highlighting the objectives and first year localities.



Objectives for 2020-2021:

- Complete ten locality sections of the book and have them ready for editing and proofing.
- The previous years localities will then be sent to editors and volunteers for review.
- The format of these locality reviews mean that they can, if necessary, act as single publications in the future.
- Creative changes to individual reports can occur past the editing phase but it does mean that the report should be 95% completed in its design and format by the end of the year.
- Photographs can change, but there should be an understanding of what the image is trying to convey and what we are looking for if new photographs come up.
- Co-authors and assistants on the chapters can continue their work past the one-year mark if they need.

1st Year Locality Report Overview

1. Vivianite Richmond Discovery
2. Andalusite Discovery “The Brick Yard”, Campbell County
3. Chestnut Ridge, Bath County
4. Goochland Quartz Crystal Discovery
5. Scufflin Acres Amethyst, Prince Edward County
6. Allah Cooper Mine, Louisa County
7. Fairy Stone National Park, Patrick County
8. Limonite Cubes, Albemarle County
9. Saltville Quartz Crystals, Smyth County
10. Peter’s Mountain, Iridescent Hematite

Please email us if you have stories, photos, specimens, etc. from these locations!