

The Pocket

November 2020



Message from FMVA

It is hard to believe 2020 is coming to an end. Although this year has given us many heartaches and losses, it has been a true success to see our team come together to make FMVA happen. Our ability to develop an organization during COVID-19 is an accomplishment in and of itself. The best part has been the incredible team of passionate and knowledgeable members that have made this dream a reality for our state.

FMVA continues to branch out and expand its outreach nationally and across the state. Our big JMU event this month was a test run to see how a collaborative event could work. Over 35 organizations were represented at the meeting! A huge shoutout to Alex Venzke and his hard work to build relationships with the national community and bring people to the table to share our exciting news about the new exhibit. A detailed report will be in this newsletter. We also believe it is important for us to recognize how far we have come in the short amount of time. Inside this newsletter will be a thank you and list of our accomplishments during our first year. Please reach out to us and let us know what we should be doing in the next year and any recommendations or event ideas you may have!

As the year wraps up and the holidays get closer, it is hard to feel as if 2020 has provided us with many things to be grateful for, but the FMVA family and the support along the way is something that is special and cannot be forgotten. A special thank you and happy holidays to you and your family!

Our next meeting will be on January 29th and the next newsletter will be posted in February 2021.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



Hydroxyapophyllite-(K), prehnite (article on page 3) Matt McGill Photograph

In this issue:

- FMVA News/Highlights
- FMVA 2020 Report
- Committee Updates
- JMU Mineral Museum Event
- National News
- Reading Recommendations
- Online Resources
- Photo Gallery



FMVA News/Highlights



Blanchard Mine, New Mexico

A special thanks to Erin Delventhal for her incredible presentation on the Blanchard Mine in New Mexico! We had over 55 guests in attendance from across the US, including some New Mexico collectors involved with the history and ownership of the Blanchard Mine. If you were unable to attend the meeting then check out the [video](#) on YouTube. We look forward to having Erin join us for another presentation in the future! Check out her page on Facebook: [Enchanted Minerals](#).



Mindat Workshop

We attempted a Mindat workshop for our October meeting. This was a test and it seems that this is not so easy to do! Despite testing the system, we had some server issues and connectivity problems that interfered with our work. It was also not an exciting thing to watch for a meeting. We live and learn though! Here is the [link](#) to the updated Scufflin Acres Mindat Page. We still have some work to do but it is a huge improvement from no photos previously!



Montgomery Club Partnership

On November 1st, we had a wonderful meeting with the board of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD, Inc. Our teams discussed ways we could work together and collaborate during and post-COVID. The club hosts a fantastic show every year and has been a key player in preserving Maryland mineral history. We are working towards an official partnership and look forward to working together in the future! Working with our neighbors and building meaningful relationships is a core mission of FMVA. Check out the GLMSMC website [here](#).



FMVA Outreach

The word is starting to get out across the US about the work FMVA is doing. Our virtual events and the relationships we are building are growing along the east coast and across the country. Alex and Thomas spoke recently at a BlueCapProductions Aloha Friday event and shared information about the organization. FMVA is working with six other mineral clubs and organizations for future partnerships in 2021. Keep spreading the word!

FMVA 2020 Report



Thank You...

It is hard to believe that FMVA was only officially recognized in May. Over these last few months, our team has worked hard to make our vision a reality. From constant Zoom meetings developing our bylaws and guidelines, to discussions about the future, we are finally here and settling in to a strong foundation for the future. We believe it is important for our chapter to take a look back and produce a yearly report of what we accomplished. This sets goals for the next year and lays out a clear path of what we did well and what we could do better. FMVA strives not only to be another successful FM chapter, but to highlight what the future of this hobby looks like and what we can accomplish together as a community.

To the entire FMVA family, we send a large thank you for your support and faith in what we have been working towards. Many of us were impacted personally by COVID-19 and no one had to take the time to make this happen, but the fact that you did shows that you believe in the future of Virginia minerals and mineralogy and supporting our hobby as a whole. Here is a short list of some of the core accomplishments of 2020:

- Hosted three speaker events (Brian Kosnar, Leah Luten, and Erin Delventhal)
- Hosted the JMU Mineral Museum Virtual Event (35 organizations represented)
- Designed the FMVA logo based off Barger Quarry Pyrite
- Published two bi-monthly [newsletters](#) for FMVA
- Created a Zoom assistance document for the mineral community
- Developed a Facebook, Instagram, and website for the organization
- Created a YouTube Channel to post recorded videos and VMP events
- Established three official FMVA partnerships:
 1. Shenandoah Valley Gem & Mineral Society ([Link](#))
 2. Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society ([Link](#))
 3. Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD, Inc. ([Link](#))



Behind the Specimen...

Hydroxyapophyllite-(K), prehnite
Fairfax quarry, Centreville, Virginia
Matt McGill Photograph

Size: 7 cm
Ex. Rock Currier
Alex Venzke Collection

Description: In 1967, there was a prehnite tube found in the quarry that contained the best-known apophyllite in the USA. John Medici and several others who collected this pocket that day called it the "Rose Garden" due to the pale pink color and flower-like formations of the apophyllite on the wall of the tube. One of the largest pieces from this find is on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and is considered the finest apophyllite in existence. Rock Currier acquired this piece in 1972.



Committee Updates

Virginia Mineral Project

Preserving Virginia mineral history...

The Virginia Mineral Project has wrapped up its virtual events for 2020. In January, the VMP will host an event to discuss the work done in 2020 and the plans for 2021, including a new list of virtual events and presentations. The VMP is excited for 2021 and hopes it can return to in person visits when viable.



- On **October 25th**, the VMP hosted a virtual event on Cleaning and Preparing Mineral Specimens! Watch it on YouTube [HERE](#).
- On **November 13th**, the VMP gave a presentation on Saltville Quartz Crystals to the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Baltimore, Maryland.
- On **November 21st**, the VMP gave a presentation on Virginia minerals to the Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society.

Educational Outreach

Chairperson: Jennifer Weiss

A circular image showing a stack of books, a pair of glasses, and a pencil holder with pens and pencils, set against a green chalkboard background.

The educational outreach committee coordinated the recent JMU Mineral Museum event in collaboration with the [Shenandoah Valley Gem and Mineral Society](#). Representatives from the Virginia Association of Science Teachers attended the event and several students from the JMU Geology Club!

- The educational outreach committee will be working closely with the Montgomery Co. Club for future education events and programming.
- Over 35 organizations and several universities were represented at the JMU event. The education committee hopes to deepen these relationships into 2021.
- The committee will work on bringing in student membership in 2021.

Keeping Track of FMVA Data

Recording our own history is just as important as recording the rest of the state. All of our meeting notes, flyers, documents, etc. are being kept and preserved in digital, physical, and cloud databases to protect the work we are doing. Our goal for 2021 is to develop a historical preservation committee that can be staffed and operated to keep records of FMVA and our partner organizations to help preserve the events and history across Virginia as it is happening. It has been clear through the work conducted by the VMP that this record keeping is vital for going back and recovering important historical data and finding out how things evolved over time. If you are interested in being a part of this effort then please email friendsofmineralogy.virginia@gmail.com

JMU Mineral Museum Event



The Gem of the Valley...

On November 18th, FMVA hosted its first large scale virtual event in collaboration with the Shenandoah Valley Gem and Mineral Society. After months of anticipation, Dr. Lance and Cindy Kearns had decided to give a presentation on the history of the JMU Mineral Museum and the future of the JMU mineral collection. Not only was the museum getting a new home, but it had acquired a beautiful collection from Peter Via, originally from Roanoke, Virginia, valued at \$16.8 million dollars.

Over 35 organizations were represented at the event, bringing in mineral enthusiasts and key community partners from across the United States. Dr. Lance and Cindy Kearns have both left a mark on the history of Virginia minerals and our community. All of us involved in Virginia minerals have been impacted by Lance and Cindy, from their JMU events with local clubs to their continued collaboration and community outreach with collectors. This relationship between a university and the mineral community was something special that has been hard to reproduce here in Virginia.



Peter L. Via (Photographer Unknown)
Photo Credit: JMU Mineral Museum

Dr. Lance and Cindy Kearns shared beautiful images of mineral specimens but most importantly, they shared the untold stories of how the Peter Via collection was passed over to JMU and the evolution of the mineral museum from an idea to what we see today. One thing was clear during this presentation, Virginia has not been forgotten in time and the future of Virginia minerals and our community is bright. This exhibit will bring in one of the most prolific collections and showcase minerals that rival specimens at the Smithsonian museum. For our state, this is a huge opportunity for clubs and collectors to travel and see the beautiful exhibit. FMVA hopes to work closer with JMU in the future and we are excited to see the interest in Virginia since the development of the VMP. We hope to see you all at the opening when COVID is over!

You can find a detailed article by JMU on the mineral collection [here](#). Be sure to check out this [short video clip](#) that highlights some of the remarkable specimens. If you are also a subscriber to the mineralogical record, then check out Volume 51, Number 5 which has a write up on the Peter Via collection and its new home!



View of the new exhibit room. The JMU Mineral Museum is now located in the Festival Conference & Student Center. The public premiere and grand reopening has been postponed until further notice due to COVID-19.



Japan Law Quartz Crystal • 17 x 11 x 4.3 cm • Sapo Mine, Minas Gerais, Brazil • Jeff Scovil Photograph • [JMU Mineral Archive](#)

National News



Mineral Talks Live YouTube

[Click Here to Follow](#)

Looking for videos to keep you busy during this cold winter? Check out the recorded lectures from the ongoing Mineral Talks Live series hosted by BlueCapProductions. Their YouTube channel provides a huge vault of incredible lectures and videos. Mineral Talks Live still has events planned for 2020, so be sure to check them out on [Facebook!](#) These lectures are then uploaded to YouTube four weeks after the live interview.



Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum

<https://gemandmineralmuseum.arizona.edu>

Learn more and stay updated about new renovations and construction for the new University of Arizona Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum! Substantial completion of exhibits should be complete by mid-January 2021. We hope to begin opening in a limited capacity as conditions will allow. The grand opening of the new museum site is being considered tentatively for April 2021. Recent Newsletter [Here](#).



Blue Hemimorphite Controversy

<https://www.mindat.org/mesg-537289.html#537314>

Earlier in September, an incredible discovery of "blue hemimorphite" was said to have been discovered from Ojuela, Mexico. Specimens took the mineral community by storm but discussions around the authenticity began to grow. Raman spectroscopy from independent sources revealed these specimens were proven to be dyed using Phthalocyanine Blue BN, a commercially created coloring agent. It is said that the "blue hemimorphite" was the mineral specimen of 2020.. go figure! We have posted a message board on Mindat for you to read.

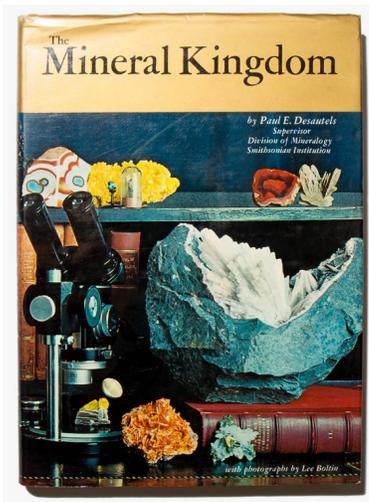


Covid Home Gem Show

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3624778587595231>

If you haven't already joined the Covid Home Gem Show Facebook Group then what are you doing?! Check out a thriving and growing community of rockhounds and dealers from across the community that came together to find a space to buy, sell and share information during COVID. A great source of live shows and sale events for the holiday!

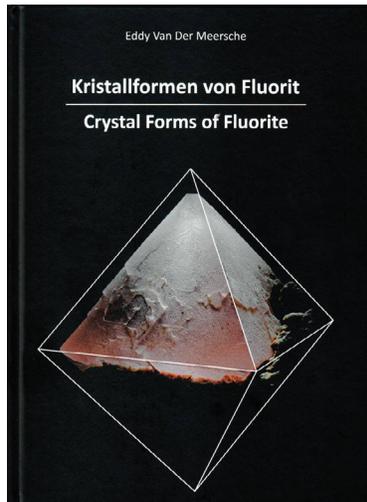
Reading Recommendations



[The Mineral Kingdom by Paul E. Desautels](#)

This is an excellent, if somewhat now dated introduction to the hobby and science of mineralogy. A good introduction to the history of mineralogy as a sub-discipline of geology is followed by topical chapters that discuss locales, types, and the science underlying mineralogy. Desautels, a major name in the discipline, writes cogently and with conviction about this interesting hobby.

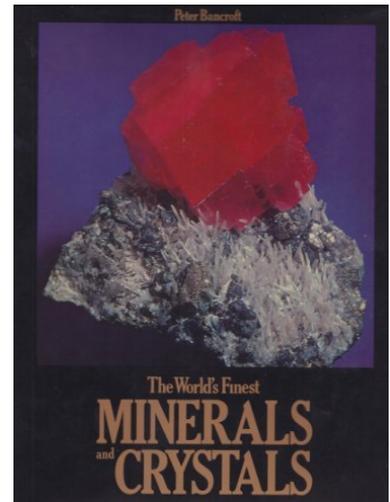
[Book Link](#)



[Crystal Forms of Fluorite by Eddy van Der Meersche](#)

Fluorite is well known for its multitude of crystal forms, and Viktor Goldschmidt's classic 1918 Atlas der Krystallformen illustrated these variations showing 51 forms and 160 figures. In this full color (and color-coded) meticulously put together update to the Atlas, Mr. Eddy Van Der Meersche documents more than 85 crystal forms illustrated in 534 photographs and 430 crystal drawings.

[Book Link](#)



[World's Finest Minerals and Crystals by Peter Bancroft](#)

In The World's Finest Minerals and Crystals, Dr. Peter Bancroft tells just how this gallery was selected. He explains how minerals are formed and where they are found, and how some of the world's finest collections were begun. Modern methods of collecting and conservation are also discussed. The book provides a unique opportunity to view the world's greatest mineral treasures brought together in a superb gallery of photographs that bring out all the rich glow and sparkle of the originals, and the text takes the reader adventuring abroad to exotic locations in the fascinating realm of mineral collection.

[Book Link](#)

FMVA Officer List:

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Vice-President: Alex Venzke - alex.venzke27@gmail.com
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Jennifer Weiss - weissjr@dukesjmu.edu
August Dietz - Dietziv@yahoo.com

Resources



[Virginia Minerals State Directory](#)

This state directory is your #1 guide for clubs, museums, rock shops, and information on Virginia minerals!



[mindat.org](#)

Mindat is the largest mineral and locality database on the web! A must for any serious collector and enthusiast!



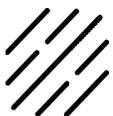
[The Diggings](#)

The Diggings™ lists millions of claims across the United States to help identify where materials are being mined or were mined in the past. With interactive maps, discover mining activity in your area.



[United States Geological Survey](#)

USGS is federal geology survey of the US government. A huge database of maps, resources, and information for collectors and educators!



[Macrostrat](#)

The best online interactive geology map! Check out the Rockd app on your phone.



[Virginia Minerals Facebook Group](#)

Connect with hundreds of rockhounds across the state and share your specimens and stories!



[Virginia Mineral Project](#)

The VMP is the statewide organization dedicated to Virginia mineralogy and mining history! Stay updated!



[Young Mineral Collectors](#)

Are you under 40yrs old and want to join a thriving and engaged community of young collectors across the world? Check out YMC!



[Friends of Mineralogy National](#)

Check out the National FM chapter and learn more about the ten chapters across the US!



[Google Earth](#)

Useful for mapping and storing prospecting information! Overlay with KMZ files to get even more information!

Photo Gallery

The Photo Gallery is a place to show off your new mineral specimen acquisitions or just specimens you'd like to showcase! These do not have to be Virginia nor do they need to be an extravagant piece. Send us your specimen for the next edition by the newsletter due date!!



Stilbite • Goose Creek Quarry, Leesburg, VA • Spheres ~1.3cm diameter • Ex Buck Keller • August Dietz Collection



Aquamarine • ~5.0in crystal • Rutherford Pegmatite No. 2, Amelia Co, Virginia • Ex George Reihmerr Collection



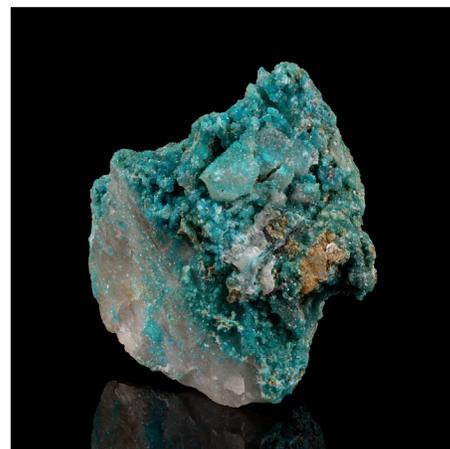
Lazulite • Graves Mtn, Georgia, USA • 2.7 cm • Matt McGill photo • Alex Venzke Collection



Microcline var. Amazonite • R. A. Kosnar claim, Colorado, USA • 2.2 cm • Matt McGill photo • Alex Venzke Collection



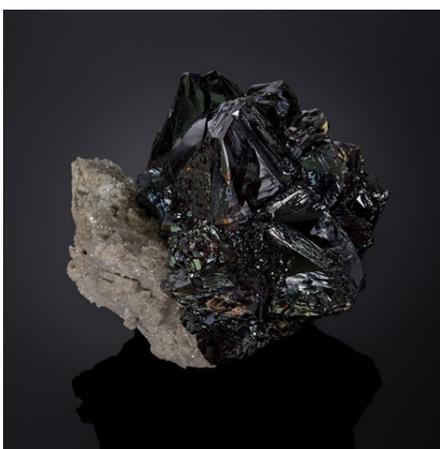
Wulfenite • Tsumeb Mine, Namibia • 2.4 cm • Matt McGill photo • Alex Venzke Collection



Turquoise • Bishop Mine, Virginia, USA • 3.0 cm • Matt McGill photo • Alex Venzke Collection



Calcite • 4.3 x 3.8 cm • Haymarket Quarry, Prince William Co, Virginia • Ex George Reihmerr Collection



Sphalerite • Elmwood Mine, Tennessee, USA • 6.5 cm • Matt McGill photo • Amy Venzke Collection



Crystallized Turquoise on Mica Schist • Bishop Mine, Lynch Station, Virginia • FOV 7mm • Stephan Wolfsfried Photo