

DVESSCAPADES

Newsletter of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society – DVESS

Year 49, Volume #9

November 2006

Meeting Place: Training Room, Linden Hall,
Rowan University 201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro,
New Jersey

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM, 2nd Wednesday of each
month (except July and August)

Meeting Date: **November 8, 2006**



Main Program

A video double feature
“Treasures of the Earth,
Mineral Collecting” and
EFMLS’s “Wild Acres”
a promotional video

Junior Rockhounds

Iron containing
minerals

****December meeting will be the annual holiday party and
election of new officers****

***Save February 18, 2007 for the annual bus trip, this year’s
destination is NYC and the Museum of Natural History***



American Federation
of
Mineralogical Societies



Eastern Federation
of
Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



Special Congress
Representing
Involved Bulletin Editors

DVESSCAPADES

Newsletter of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society – DVESS

BACKGROUND

The Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc. (DVESS), a non-profit organization, was founded in 1956 and incorporated in the state of New Jersey in 1957. The Society promotes interest, knowledge, and the development of skills in the “earth sciences.” These interests include mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, archeology, and local preservation. The Society supports the conservation of natural resources, advocates the availability of collecting sites, and maintains close contact with those in the academic field.

MEETINGS

The Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September through June, at Rowan University, Linden Hall, Glassboro, New Jersey. At 7:30 PM members meet to socialize, view displays, sign the registry and receive a door-prize ticket, toward a specially chosen specimen. Meetings start promptly at 8:00 PM and include the evening’s program followed by the monthly business meeting, concluding around 10:00 PM. Meetings are open to the general public.

MEMBERSHIP

See the Membership Chairperson for an application for membership in the Society. Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities and to receive a newsletter when published. Sponsoring memberships are entitled to all of the above plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Membership rates for the Society are:

Regular Membership

\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each family member
\$10.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each family member
\$10.00 for Students with College ID

Sponsoring Membership

<u>Level</u>	<u>1st Member</u>	+	<u>Additional Members</u>	=	<u>Receive</u>
“Silver”	\$50.00	+	\$5.00	=	Geode Specimen
“Gold”	\$75.00	+	\$5.00	=	Native Gold Specimen
“Platinum	\$100.00	+	\$5.00	=	Premium Specimen

Dues are renewable each year in January

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Inc., DVESS
P.O.Box 372
Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052

DVESS Website:
<http://www.dvess.org>

EFMLS Website:
<http://www.AmFed.org/EFMLS>

Editor’s Notes

Editor is not responsible for authenticity of information in any articles submitted for publication. Nor are the opinions expressed in the “DVESScapades” necessarily those of the officers of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc., and/or the editors.

To submit an article for publication in the DVESScapades contact the Newsletter Editor.

DVESS 2006 SPONSORS

Gerald Feigin – Platinum
Dwight Ridenour – Platinum

Privilege to enter Rowan University facilities is limited to the night of the meeting between the hours of 7PM & 10PM under the direction of the University staff. Permission from the University staff is required to enter the school at any other time.

DVESS 2006 Officers & Positions

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Counsel to the Exec. Bd.
Director of EAS Research
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Past & Future President
Ann Lynne Benson
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President's Message or "Kernels of Wisdom" by Thaddeus Butterstone substituting for Society President Gerald Feigin who has once again forgotten to deliver the President's inspirational message for the masses.

In November of 2005, I selflessly volunteered to fill the leadership vacuum that had developed at the top of the Society by the forced retirement of Anne Lynne Bensone due to the Society constitutional prohibition on anyone person serving as President for more then two consecutive terms. Unfortunately the weight of office has taken it toll upon me and my family. The endless fundraising, the lengthy diplomatic missions to maintain good relations with are allies and enemies, having to constantly message of the huge egos of the individuals representing the various factions within the Society, along with having to deal with the incessant infighting has stress me to the breaking point. Consequently I have decided to relinquish my iron grip upon the reigns of power, and at this early date I am announcing my decision not to run for a second term as President. The early announcement is intended to give the various factions within the Society the opportunity to rally their constituents in support of their selected Presidential choice.

Just like George Washington, I did not seek this office and would prefer to retire to my family estate and live the life of the gentleman arborist. I would like to thank those that have served me faithfully and while I am retiring from the Presidency, I will continue to be active in the Society and continue to serve although in a more limited capacity.

October 11, 2006 General Meeting Minutes by Thaddeus Butterstone acting for Chuck O'Loughlin, Involuntary Recording Secretary and EAS victim, who once again failed to keep notes on the event and was forced to call upon me and my superior memory to recreate the last meeting.

As many of you are aware the Involuntary Recording Secretary was unable to attend the October meeting and since he is my ride, I too missed the event. It is my understanding that minutes were taken by another party but were not submitted for publication in the newsletter. Even if there had been submitted, they would have in all probability been boring and of little interest to the general membership.

Junior Rockhound News by Gerald Feigin

Professor Feigin will be presenting an entertaining program on iron containing minerals. The next junior program, which will not be until January, is tentative scheduled to be calcite in all its many forms.

Programs by Gary Weinstein

Before discussing our up coming programs, I would like to take a few seconds to report on the very successful 50th Anniversary Banquet held last month. The banquet took place at Nonna's Restaurant, 211 Haddonfield-Berlin Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ. It was of course the social event of the fall season and everyone who is everyone was there. We enjoyed a fine meal while viewing slides of past Society functions thanks to the extensive slide collection of George Petroshock, former Society Historian.

November's program will be a double feature that includes viewings of the show that was filmed in part at the 2006 Trotter dig and the EFMLS presentation on Wild Acres. The first program is a very informative introductory presentation on mineral collecting. The second program will provide members with an inside look at the Federations mountain retreat where for a nominal fee Federation members can spend a week relaxing, socializing and learning various rockhounding skills.

December's program will of course be the annual election of officers and the holiday party. This year we are planning to hold the party at the meeting facility with the Society providing a cold cut platter or pizza and members bring desserts or other favorite dishes.

Club News and Items of Interest by various contributors

Special Report - The Geological Society of America Annual Conference by Robert Trail

I was fortunate to attend the Geological Society of America (GSA) annual conference in Philadelphia this past month. Established in 1888, GSA provides access to elements that are essential to the professional growth of earth scientists at all levels of expertise and from all sectors: academic, government, business, and industry. The annual conference rotates between the GSA headquarters in Denver, CO and a host city every other year, with this year's host being Philadelphia. Having attending several Northeastern Section meetings in the past and thoroughly enjoying the experience, I was eager to attend a national meeting. At the national conference several thousand researchers, educators, and scientists all gather to present their latest findings for peer review. Additionally, the conferences always feature fantastic field trips, one of which I was fortunate enough to attend.

Journey into Anthracite Fieldtrip

On October 21, 2006, I attended a fieldtrip to the Southern Anthracite field of Pennsylvania. The fieldtrip started out just outside of Pottsville, PA at a road cut along Route 61. The road cut bisects rocks from the Mauch Chunk, Pottsville, and Llewellyn Formations, formed during the late Mississippian and early to mid Pennsylvanian periods, approximately 325 to 310 million years ago. The sedimentary beds in this area have been deformed to such an extent that the beds now lie in a vertical position. Although this arrangement is common in Pennsylvania, vertical beds are quite rare elsewhere in the America. The rocks exposed here included sandstones, shales, conglomerates, and even some fossiliferous coal! I collected several fossilized plant imprints from this location.

Next the trip brought us to a mine waste water discharge treatment facility along Route 209 near Tamaqua, PA. Throughout Pennsylvania, metal rich, acidic mine discharge water from abandoned coal mines continues to be a major environmental problem. Pyrite that is often associated with the coal reacts with groundwater to create very acidic water, often contaminated local streams and rivers. At this location, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has set up a mine discharge treatment system to address the acidic water. This particular system treats the mine water by flushing it through limestone to raise the pH. Unfortunately, this system was very poorly designed and is not functioning at this time. As a result, the acidic water is plowing directing onto the Little Schuylkill River.

The next stop brought us to another outcrop, this one with rocks from the upper Devonian Trimmers Formation (approximately 360 million years old) and more of the Llewellyn Formation (325 million years old). The Lehigh and New England Railroad Trail provided a very pleasant walkway to view both the outcrop and the colorful fall foliage.

The final stop of the day was at the No. 9 Coal Mine & Museum in Lansford, PA. The mine was opened in 1855 and was continuously operated until 1972, making it the oldest and longest continually operated deep coal mine in the world. The coal mine tour opened in 2003 after a decade of work by volunteers. The mine tour started with a ride on old mine cars converted to carry passengers. The mine extends horizontally into the hillside approximately 1,600 feet where it bisects a vertically oriented coal seam. A vertical shaft was excavated out of this seam to a depth of 900 feet to mine the coal. Still present in the mine is the original elevator system installed around the turn of the 20th century. The mine tour does not go down into the shaft as most of the mine quickly filled with groundwater once the active mining operations ceased. The mine tour guide was an actual coal miner who worked in the No. 9 shaft and provided many insights into the operations of the mine. After the mine tour we spent some time in the museum section which houses an extensive collection of artifacts from Pennsylvania's rich mining heritage. The No. 9 Mine & Museum is a definite must-see for anyone interested in mining, history, or earth science. For more information on the No. 9 Mine, feel free to visit their website <http://no9mine.tripod.com/>.

I have posted pictures from my trip on my photo-website, which you can view here: http://public.fotki.com/rockhound2k2/rocks_fossils_and_journey-into-anthracite/.

The GSA Conference

On Sunday and Monday, October 22nd & 23rd, I attended talks at the GSA conference being held at the Philadelphia Convention Center. Some of the more interesting talks were about recent discoveries in planetary geology, including some lively debate on whether or not Venus had catastrophic resurfacing approximately 700 million years ago. Also discussed were the recent discoveries made by the Mars Exploration Rovers and how the new information reflects in the early history of Mars (for example, how warm and wet was Mars a few billion years ago). I also attended some talks on new remediation techniques for environmental cleanups, but I won't bore you with the details on those (and they were extremely boring!). I was also able to catch up with many friends from my college years, which is always a treat.

This was the first annual GSA conference that I have been able to attend

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WHAT WOULD YOU DO? Submitted by Anne Lynne Bensone

Imagine you are enjoying your favorite pastime: rockhounding. You're searching for agates in an obscure but promising location. Scratching the surface soon becomes digging a small cave and suddenly it isn't minerals coming up on your shovel, it's bones – dinosaur bones!

This is not a problem! After minerals, fossils are your passion (not counting that loyal sweetie at home, waiting for your return – and waiting and waiting...). So you collect an assortment of bones and go home to assemble the mother of all jigsaw puzzles: you build yourself a dinosaur.

By some quirk of luck or fate, you've found enough bones to fulfill every paleontologist's dream: a skeleton that's more complete than most dinosaur skeletons in most museums in most countries. Moreover, you know you haven't put the slightest dent in the number of bones from that location! Not only is your hilltop a mass burial ground, but all of the bones are from a single type of dinosaur - males and females, from infants to adults, there's a million bones up there and all but a few belong to a single type of dinosaur: **THERIZINOSAURS**.

Would you tell anybody about your find or would you keep it to yourself?

Therizinosaurus were about 13 feet from beak to tail, stood 4-1/2 feet tall and boasted talons four inches long. They somewhat resemble their Velociraptor cousins in many ways, but on closer inspection (according to researchers), this creature seems to be demoting itself on the food chain. Their teeth are losing the meat-eating edge; the pelvis is broadening to accommodate a digestive system large enough to handle a plant-based diet; their neck is growing longer, legs stubbier, and the head smaller. They had hand claws which grew to long blades on the adults. They represent an intermediate step between carnivorous and herbivorous dinosaurs, and went extinct 125 million years ago.

You never thought you'd be this lucky, but your excitement is cooled by the chilling thought that the land you found the dinosaur bones on is owned by the federal government. You can't legally dig up the bones you dug or own the dinosaur you discovered.

Now ask yourself:

1. Would you tell anyone? Who? Family? Friends? Fellow fossil enthusiasts?
2. Would you tell an agent of the federal government that you took ("stole") fossils?
3. Would you admit that you knew taking them was illegal?
4. Would you take anyone to the site? Would lead a USGS paleontologist there, knowing he would NEVER find it otherwise? Knowing he is the person who will show his delight by having you arrested, tried and imprisoned?

Larry Walker did all these things. He found the site, collected the fossils, debated the consequences, told the USGS and led their paleontologist there. And, yes, he was indicted, in 2002, by U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City, for theft of government property. He pleaded guilty, was sentenced to five months in prison and 36 months of supervised release; he was ordered to pay \$15,000.

Larry served his prison time in 2003 and then returned home to Moab, Utah. What would you have done?

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You may want to include this NPR Radio interview link in the newsletter-

Fossiliferously Yours, Grantticus Eliot (Latin for Grantt Eliot)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4658294>

Another NPR program link "Scientists Look to Moon for Signs of Early Earth Life"

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5410577>

Ebba Lligouri was kind enough to share with us their fall schedule so that we can visit with them or take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities to get out of the house. I have updated the list to eliminate those events that are in the past.

Fred will be set up at the annual Ultraviolet Fluorescent Minerals Only Show on Oct 28 and will have some North Carolina fluorescent Mangano-Apatite.

Nov 18 In Pemberton at the High School on Arney's Mount Rd there will be a Train and Hobby Show. Fred will have a table, may carve rocks (if space is available).

Rockhead (Stephen B.) submitted the following: "Here is a site worth looking at. I would like a few of these specimens!"

<http://www.fluorescents.com/>

and a group on persons striking it big time at the only US public access diamond location

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15363458/>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14951526/>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15012899/>

Club members, who will be attending shows to look, buy or sell are invited to notify the editor at editor@dveess.org and we will get the information into the newsletter. Also let us know if you spot any of our far flung members making surprise appearances anywhere, or have something exciting in your life to share with us. We are always on the lookout for something of interest to report on our members activities.

Field Trips by Chuck O'Loughlin (for additional information or to sign up for any field trips contact me at 856-663-1383 or editor@dveess.org)

November 4, 2006 6PM to 9PM – The Franklin Mineral Museum will be holding its fall night collecting dig. Anyone interested in collecting should sign up at the Museum just prior to the collecting time.

The Field Trip Department is looking for a volunteer with interest in supervising fossil collecting trips. Fossils are not my thing and due to a crowded schedule I can't take the time to lead such trips. If someone is willing to lead trips to such locations as Big Brook or Calvert Cliffs, I will assist in helping them arrange the trip. If anyone is interested please contact me.

Field Trip Report by Thaddeus Butterstone

The Fluorescent Mineral Society in conjunction with the Northeast Chapter's meeting and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum Society offered night collecting at the Sterling Hill Mine dumps. If you ever have the chance to collect at Sterling Hill at night don't pass up the opportunity. The dumps were aglow with the full ultraviolet light spectrum. I personally came home with a small assortment of Hydrozincite and Sphalerite. Our good friend Jeff Winkler brought along the cart for the big superbrights and they lite up one of the walls just like at Trotter and it was just as spectacular.

Calendar of Shows and Events compiled by Chuck O'Loughlin from various sources

November 4-5: The Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter invite you to attend their fall symposium for the mineral collecting community on "Mines and Minerals. The symposium will take place on Sunday November 5 at the Delaware County Institute of Science in Media, PA. A field trip is planned for Saturday, November 4. For more information please contact Arnold Mogel at 570-739-4034 or pioche@verizon.net or Doug Rambo 302-893-1841 or drambo417@comcast.net

November 4-5: 37th Annual Gemarama 2006, "The World of Opals" sponsored by the **Tuscarora Lapidary Society.** CFS, School at Church Farm, Business Rte 30 at Rte 202, Exton, PA

November 18-19: Annual Gem & Mineral Show and **56th EFMLS Convention** sponsored by the **Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches.** So. Florida Fairgrounds, West Palm Beach Florida. EFMLS Annual Meeting – November 17

Additional shows and events are listed on the Eastern Federations Web site www.afms.org/efmls/

Show Report by L. E. Ott

Letters to the Editor responses by T. Butterstone, Member Grievance Chairperson

I have notice a great deal of irregularity with show dates as published in the DVESScapades. As a result of these egregious errors I missed the Franklin Show, which I so look forward too. – signed – Troubled by irregularity at the shore

Dear irregular, I believe that there is medication that you can take for your irregularity. Any fan of the Franklin Mineral Shows would know that it is always on the last weekend in September and April. My poor colleague, O'Loughlin, is under such pressure to publish (publish or perish) the newsletter, that there is often too little time to review the publication for mistakes. Therefore you must accept the good with the bad, or volunteer!

Last months newsletter included a Franklin Mineral Show report by the eminent journalist, L. E. Ott. In Mr. Ott's article he supposedly changed the names to protect the innocent, but at one point referred to me as Gary. I want to make this perfectly clear that I am not Gary and am in no way associated with Gary or Gary's Gem Garden (conveniently located in the Saw Mill Shopping Center on Rt. 70 in Cherry Hill, NJ) – signed – Larry (location withheld to protect the innocent)

Dear Larry, I am sure that the eminent Mr. Ott's error was merely a typo, which appear with regularity (or do I mean irregularity) in this publication. After all the difference between Gary and Larry is only two letters. I know that your are upset about being confused with Gary, I would be upset too if someone called me Gary, but try to let it pass as we can only do so much with the limited resources available to the editorial staff.

The note under last month's word puzzle claimed that the answers could be found on page 13. My newsletter did not include a page 13. What happened? – signed – Puzzled in Pensgrove

Dear Puzzled, when we went to print page 13 we ran into all sorts of problems. After consulting with the various mystical minerals we keep on hand for just such emergencies, it was determined that the power of triskaidekaphobia was greater than the power of the mystical minerals available to us. We have formed a subcommittee to investigate the problem and hope that you will be able to cope with out an answer key until we can lay our hand on more powerful minerals that can pull our ying and yang back into alignment.

I have been watching page 2 of the newsletter for sometime now and wonder why Mr. Butterstone list of offices continues to grow almost monthly leaving little space for the other officers. – signed – Being squeezed off page 2 in Clementon

Dear Squeezed, the editorial staff believes that it is only just to recognize all of the hard work I have done by listing all of the many task I perform (without compensation, I might add) for the Society. It is regrettable that many of the lesser lights and dead wood are being squeezed out but that is life. We were hoping that no one would notice, as we have long suspected that no one reads page two. Our assumption is apparently incorrect as you at least read page two. Perhaps you should take up a hobby or develop some other interest so that you don't fixate on such trivial issues.



NEW MEETING LOCATION – Training Room main floor, Linden Hall, Rowan University, 201 Mullica Hill Road (Rt. 322), Glassboro, NJ

Directions to Rowan University as well as a campus map can be obtained by visiting the Rowan University web site www.rowan.edu members without access to the web, the campus can be reached by taking Rt. 55 exit 50A (Rt. 322 East towards Glassboro). Proceed east on Rt. 322 through one traffic light across the rail road tracks and through another traffic light. Immediately after the 2nd traffic light make a right turn into the next driveway (one way road). After the turn make the first left into the parking area and find a spot to park. Linden Hall is the second building after turning into the parking area. It is right behind Memorial Hall.

The campus can also be reached from Rt. 47 (Delsea Drive). From Rt. 47 turn onto Rt. 322 West in Glassboro. After turning onto Rt. 322 west go through two (2) traffic lights. Just after passing through the 2nd traffic light by the Student Center make the first left hand turn into the driveway (driveway is one way). Turn left into parking area "H" and park, Linden Hall is the building behind Memorial Hall.

http://www.rowan.edu/pdf/campus_map2005_color.pdf

D V E S S

8/9/2006

W O R D P U Z Z L E

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b y E d L o v e l a n d

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R	C	A	N	A	I	N	O	S	H	T	I	M	S	E	U
I	A	H	U	E	T	I	D	O	R	D	N	O	H	C	L
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I	C	H	A	L	C	O	P	H	A	N	I	T	E	C	D
R	I	O	U	L	M	O	P	A	O	I	F	I	M	E	N
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| BRECCIA | FULGURITE |
| CHABAZITE | GALENA |
| CHALCEDONY | HERKIMER |
| CHALCOPHANITE | KTBOUNDARY |
| CHALCOPYRITE | KYANITE |
| CHONDRODITE | LUSTER |
| CHRYSOCOLLA | OXIDE |
| CHRYSOPRASE | PLEISTOCENE |
| CRETACEOUS | REALGAR |
| EMERALD | ROCKHOUND |
| ERYTHRITE | SMITHSONIAN |
| ESPERITE | STREAK |
| FERRIMOLYBDITE | |
| FLINT | |
| FLUORITE | |

The answer key for the word puzzle is located on page 13.

Happy 50th anniversary DVESS and congratulations to all of the members and friends of DVESS over the last half a century for making the Society a quality organization dedicated to promoting the earth sciences.

DVESScapades

The Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

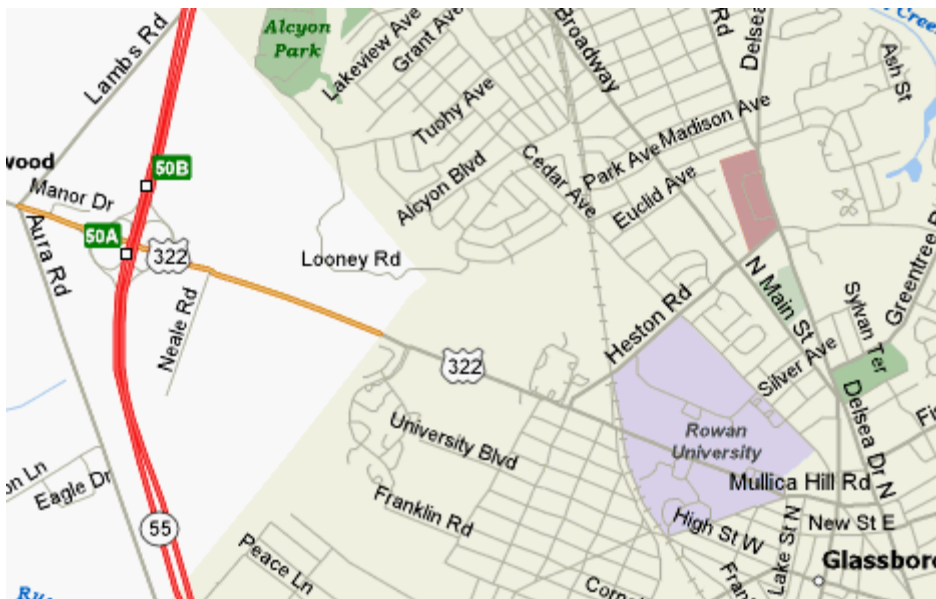
PO Box 372

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DVESScapades

November 2006



**This Month's
Meeting:**

**November 8, 2006
Main Program**

**A video double feature
"Treasures of the Earth,
Mineral Collecting" and
"Wild Acres"**

**Junior Rockhounds
Iron containing
minerals**