

# DVESScapades

*escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures*



## Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Newsletter



**August 12, 2009**

**Program:** Meetings in the summer are new to our club so we will be doing something new and old.

Gary will bring in a load of antique DVESS newsletters so members can take a stack to peruse them for valuable information, some of which may be shared that night with all. It promises to be an interesting and unique evening.

We are eagerly anticipating the **Club annual picnic Saturday, July 26 beginning 1 pm**, at the home of our Vice President and wife, Gerald and Jane Feigin . All members are welcome. If you are not a member but wish to become one, you can join at the picnic. A covered dish - salad, pasta or desert is welcome everything else is provided by the Club.  
See you there!!!

### **President's Message - by AnnLynne Benson, DVESS President and EFMLS Director**

The August meeting will be of particular interest to long-time members (particularly everyone who remembers Alex Klinshaw), those who appreciate solid information on minerals and fossils, and anyone who wants to see what the newsletters of the past looked like. Our DVESS*capade* will be a hands-on exploration of our newsletter archive and we will share the gems we find therein.

I'm delighted to announce that the Delaware Mineralogical Society of will be the host for the 2010 Eastern Federation Convention. The show is scheduled for the first weekend in March 2010 (March 6 -7) in Stanton, a suburb of Wilmington about ¼ of a mile off Exit 4 of I-95 southbound (I think this is about 10 miles or less from the Delaware Memorial Bridge). Mark your calendars now!

Established in 1960 (yes, 2010 will be their 50th anniversary), the Delaware Mineralogical Society is very active. They have about 85 adult members and 25 juniors.

In addition to their monthly meetings, they have numerous field trips, an annual show, and they support educators and the Scouts in the arena of earth science advancement. Plan on joining us in northern Delaware during the first weekend in March.

We'll give you more details as the show date draws closer. For you mineral and history buffs, Delaware is also known as the "Diamond State", because our third President, Thomas Jefferson, said "Delaware is a jewel among the States."

Some thoughts on collecting.....

Directions to the "best site ever" are always wrong.

IT'S J\_ST  
NO F\_N

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see more in Sept	

A little kid always finds the best fossil or mineral; after all, they are closer to the ground (this is the way Past Treasurer Ruth van Veenendaal and I came upon my greatest haul of selenite ever)!

A stromato-lite has 1/3 less calories than a regular stromato...but it's not as satisfying.

Never walk DOWN a hill into a quarry that you aren't willing to walk back UP (Winfield PA comes to mind - ugh!).

And finally, if you find human remains next to anything younger than the Pleistocene, call Gerald. (thanks to the Delaware Mineralogical Society newsletter for these bits of wisdom)

See you August 12!!

Group, Enjoy the trip (Click for full screen where indicated) - Grant our Sec and on-line Guru Traveling much faster than the speed of light, this tour gives a sense of the true scale of the Cosmos: A 3D fly-through of special sights in the Universe that lie relatively close to Earth; then far beyond our Milky Way Galaxy, through nearby galaxies

[http://www.space.com/common/media/video/player.php?videoRef=mm31A\\_ScaleUniver](http://www.space.com/common/media/video/player.php?videoRef=mm31A_ScaleUniver)

And yet more info - Gang, How the moon was made little video. Click on full screen for the best effects. Courtesy Grant, our Sec and on-line Guru

<http://www.space.com/common/media/video/player.php?videoRef=071120TugMoon>

The meaning of the cryptic box on the front page of our news letter...

It's just no fun without you!!!!!! We need to see you at our meetings.

**PROGRAMS: DVESS General Meeting Future Dates 2009,  
NOTE NEW DATES NOW INCLUDED FOR JULY AND AUGUST**

**August** 12<sup>th</sup>, Meetings in the summer are new to our club so we will be doing something new and old this time. I will bring in a load of antique club newsletters and members will take a stack and peruse them for valuable information, some of which may be shared that night with all. It promises to be an interesting and unique evening.

**Sept** 9<sup>th</sup> ., Our annual show and tell will take place this evening. All members who have traveled this summer (or anytime) are encouraged to bring in their finds and photos, etc. and tell us about your adventures. Bring friends!

**Oct** 14<sup>th</sup> , [Eugene.F.Hartstein-1@USA.dupont.com](mailto:Eugene.F.Hartstein-1@USA.dupont.com) Subject: Fossil Fakes and Forgeries is on for Oct 14 Please add to your newsletter that I am inviting folks to bring in any fake fossils they may have for that meeting. In past presentations of this topic I have had a number of folks bring in fakes for display and we have had a great time. One fellow brought in a spectacular looking Moroccan trilobite that was sawed in half to reveal it was epoxy stuck to a rock. :) I also have a few slides on faked minerals so if you have a few of those, bring them along. From my perspective this is a great opportunity to educate the collectors on quality material. Given by "Gene" Eugene Hartstein, DuPont CoTech Development Manager ( Note our banquet is on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> )

**FIELD TRIPS:** Sterling Hill tour for DVESS will take place in September 2009.

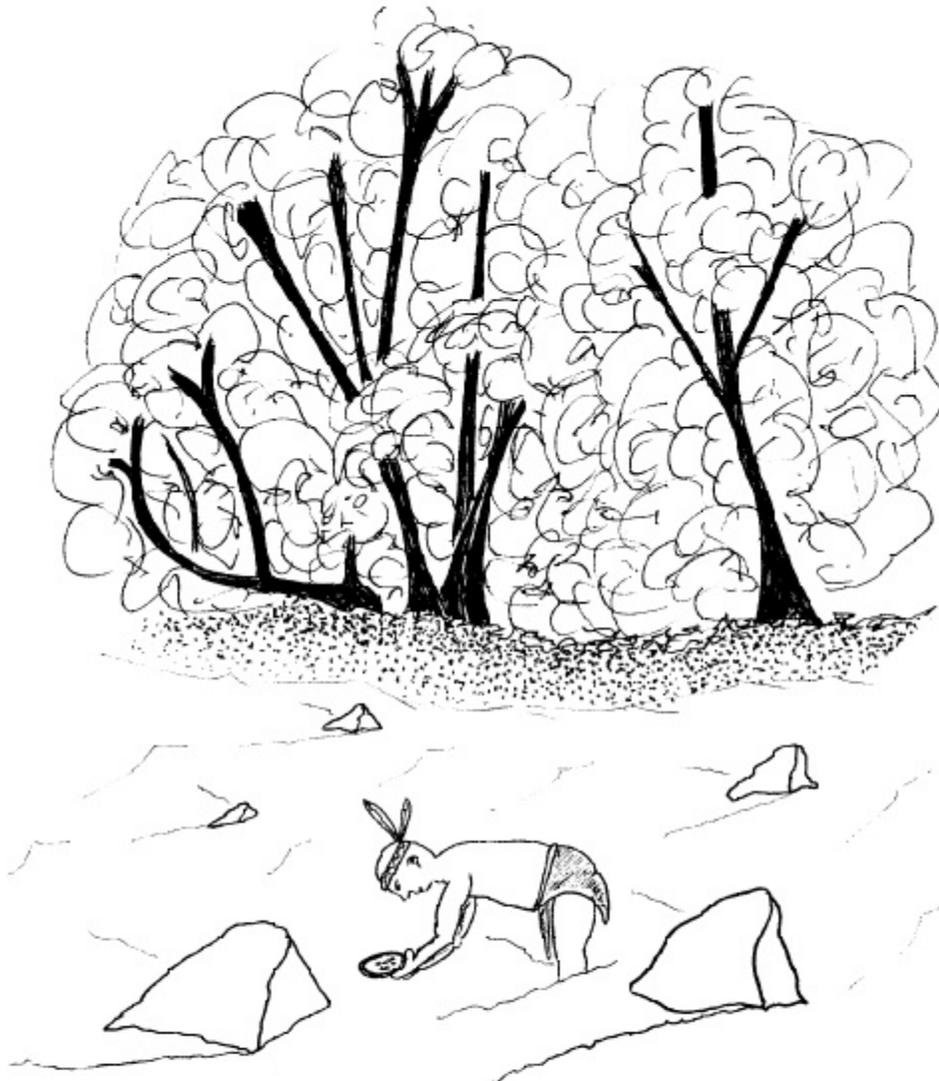
**EVENTS:** The potluck dinner is cancelled for this year because of date scheduling conflicts.

**The banquet** at Vitarelli's on October 18, 2009. Gary had previously suggested a DVD presentation on Rhodochrosite ( A perfect use of the new machine).

# America's First Gold Rush

Gold has been known, recovered and used for centuries in the land now known as Georgia. Native Americans living north of present-day Atlanta panned for gold in the Chattahoochee River.

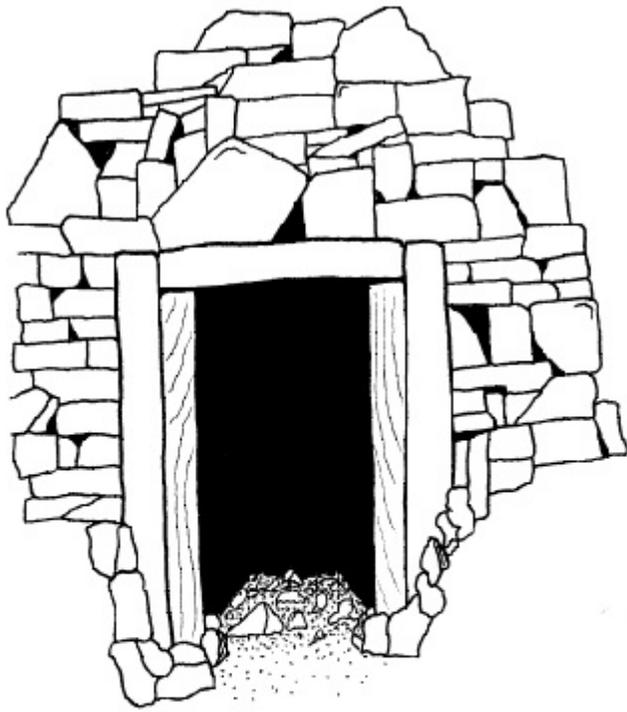
The Spanish explorer, Hernando De Soto, was the first European to explore the southeastern region of the United States. Reports of great quantities of gold drew De Soto and the Spanish to Northern Georgia. Before long, small settlements of miners and fortune-seekers were settling along the Chattahoochee River. Gold miners worked the region and collected gold until the



early years of the 1700's.

The Spanish were forced out of Georgia (to St. Augustine, Florida) by pirates who raided the Spanish Christian Missions that had been established in the region. Still, some gold mining continued in the region for the next hundred years, right up to the early 1800's.





## The Gold Rush is On!

1828 is a very important year in Georgia history. In this year, a man named Frank Logan discovered large quantities of gold in White County. Gold mining in the region began in 1829. By the end of the year, mines were being worked in Lumpkin, Cherokee and Union Counties, too.

Benjamin Parks is an interesting character in Georgia's gold history. He spent most of his life spreading a story that he was the man who discovered gold at Dahlonega (which was called Licklog back then). For decades, people have told the story of "Benjamin Parks, the man who discovered Georgia gold." Historians, however, count this story as only a

legend.

Within one year of Frank Logan's discovery, over 300 ounces of gold were being produced every day in Georgia! So much gold was recovered that the Federal Government established a mint in Dahlonega in 1838. A "mint" is a place where coins are made. In Georgia, they obviously made *gold* coins.

America's first gold rush continued until 1849. In 1849 gold was discovered in California, and the great California Gold Rush was on. However, gold is still found in Georgia to this very day. Though the amounts found in the early 1800's are now gone, northern Georgia continues to reward hard-working miners and prospectors with golden treasure from the ground.

## America's first gold rush happened in Georgia!

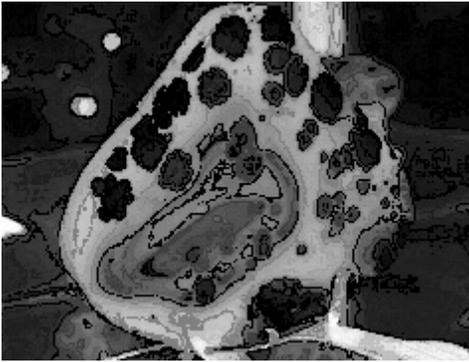
### Golden Nugget

The purity of gold is measured in *carats*. Pure gold is 24 carats. 18 carat gold contains 75% gold. 10 carat gold contains just over 41% gold. Native gold from Scotland is the purest natural gold: it is 22.8 carats.

# Montana Moss Agate

by Brooks Britt

One of Diamond Dan's newest mineral collecting friends is Mr. Brooks Britt from Virginia. Brooks is an active member of the Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society. Brooks is very interested in Montana Agates. Here are some pictures of polished agates in his collection.

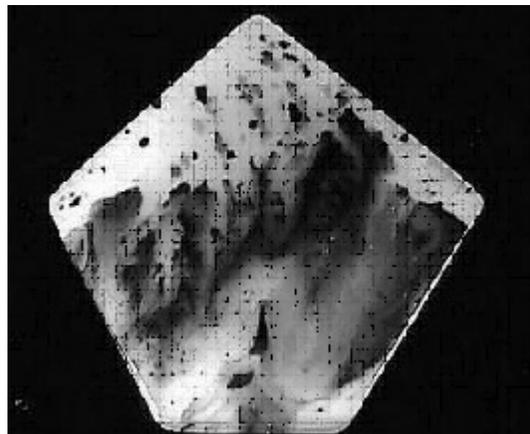
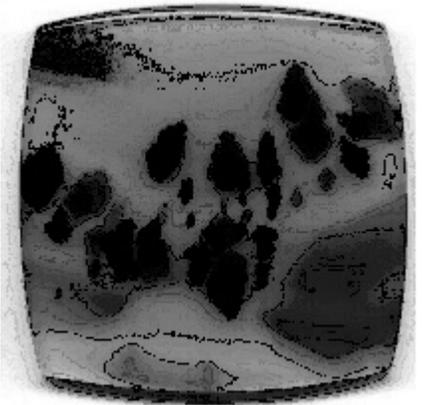


He was very nice to give us an article about Montana agates for you to read in this issue. These agates are beautiful, aren't they?

"Montana Moss Agate" is the name given to the beautiful chalcedony (chalcedony is a variety of quartz) that is found in the gravels of the Yellowstone River and the smaller rivers that flow off of it. It is from the Pleistocene age which was 10,000 to 1,600,000 years ago. These agates were created by volcanic activity.

Agates come in many different forms and are formed in at least five different ways. The main conditions needed to form agates are 1.) silica (that is, quartz) from volcanic ash, 2.) water from rainfall or from the ground, 3.) and the elements manganese and iron which create the colors in agates. Lava is filled with gasses and the gasses create bubbles in the lava. Very, very hot water can dissolve silica (quartz). The extremely hot water made its way into the bubbles and spaces in the cooling lava. As the water cooled down, the silica crystallized and hardened and filled in the bubbles with hard chalcedony. This is how Montana Agate was formed.

The colors in Montana Agate are from impurities that were in the hot water. Red is from iron oxide. Black is from manganese oxide. When Montana Agate is studied under powerful microscopes, scientists can see that there are tiny little canals in the agate that at one time contained water with the iron and manganese. The little canals are like very tiny tubes or pipes inside the agate. The fern-like and branch effect of trees, grass and shrubbery come from the fact that these tiny canals branched out in various directions forming smaller and smaller canals. Montana Agate can be found in three states. However, a small area in Montana seems to have the best of this agate. It is found in the gravel deposits in the middle and lower Yellowstone valleys. When you find them, you will see that they are rounded nodules that really aren't very colorful on the surface. They are dull gray! The beautiful colors and patterns can only be seen when the nodules are cut and polished. They are cut with blades that have diamond chips embedded on them. Today, Montana Agates are becoming more and more popular. Many rockhounds and collectors visit this area every year from all parts of the United States.



Maybe someday you will be able to travel to Montana and dig for Montana Agates yourself.

With the permission of:

[www.diamonddanpublications.net](http://www.diamonddanpublications.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

The **Art of the Gecko** show will be on display at the Academy from July 25-September 7, 2009.

**Art of the Gecko** was inspired by the Academy's newest exhibit "[Geckos-Tails to Toepads](#)". The "Geckos" exhibit features more than 75 live geckos representing 18 different species. Each species is unique in coloring, size, and shape. To celebrate the beauty and diversity of these amazing creatures, an installation of contemporary artwork was created exclusively for this show by members of Nexus/foundation for today's art, a co-operative art gallery that exhibits the work of emerging local artists.

NOW thru Sept. 20, 2009 Franklin Institute (now known as The Franklin) in the Mandell Center. Step into the realm of *Star Trek* and be part of the legacy that has captured the imagination of generations! This unprecedented exhibition features the world's most comprehensive collection of authentic *Star Trek* ships, sets, costumes and props from all five series and ten films over the last 40 years and includes over 200 authentic objects, a full-motion flight simulator AND the spaceship bridge from *Star Trek: The Next Generation!*

NOW thru Sept. 7, 2009 Reserve your tickets today for a look at this exclusive exhibit, created specifically for The Franklin about "The Father of Modern Science!". The Franklin is proud to have been selected as the only host of *Galileo, the Medici and the Age of Astronomy*, presented by Officine Panerai. Created through The Franklin's exclusive partnership with the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza in Florence, the exhibit showcases Galileo's accomplishments, his relationship to the ruling Medici family, his discoveries and his overall impact on astronomy, physics and math. This is the first time one of the only two remaining Galileo telescopes has left Italy! Also exhibited are other instruments belonging to Galileo, as well as paintings, prints and manuscripts from the priceless Medici collection. Together, the collections will showcase how the union of science, art and political power gave rise to Galileo's success.

**DVESS MEETING LOCATION : Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30) in Berlin, the Education Building** is located in the center of Berlin, behind the church.

## DIRECTIONS:

**From Atco (west-bound)**, after the traffic light at Taunton Ave. (Rite Aid drugstore on the left), the church is about the 3rd building on the right; turn into the first driveway. If you miss it, pass by the church and turn Right onto Broad St. (at the Berlin Diner) then turn Right into the parking lot of the Baptist Church and go straight all the way - the parking lots of both churches connect.

**From Rt. 73 in Marlton**: head East (South) on Rt. 73. As you enter Berlin, you will pass Wal-Mart (on the left) and a shopping center (on the right) with Shop Rite and Staples. Get into the Right "Exit Only" lane and follow the signs for Cross Keys Rd. **At the intersection of Cross Keys Rd. and the White Horse Pike (Rt. 30) turn LEFT. At the next intersection (Broad St.) continue straight past the Berlin Diner and SPEEDY MART on your left; pass by 2 or 3 white storefronts on the left then see the big white church with red front doors on your left. Pass in front of the church and turn into the driveway on the far side. Education Building is behind the church.**

**From Lindenwold or Clementon on the White Horse Pike (east-bound):**

As you enter Berlin business district, you will pass through the traffic light at Cross Keys Rd. (CVS Pharmacy on right corner). Follow highlighted directions above.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Regular members are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities. Sponsoring members are entitled to the same plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Dues are renewable each year in January. Membership rates for the Society:

### Regular Membership:

\$15.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> family member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

\$10.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Senior ( 65+ ) member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

### Sponsoring Memberships ( each additional family member - \$5.00 ):

"Silver" \$50.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member - receive a Geode Specimen

"Gold" \$75.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member - receive a Native Gold Specimen

"Platinum" \$100 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member - receive a Premium Specimen

## SOCIETY INFORMATION

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.
- \* supports the conservation of natural resources, advocates the availability of collecting sites and maintains close contact with those in the academic field.
- \* is a member club of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies  
( <http://www.AmFed.org/EFMLS> )

## MEETINGS

The Society meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month throughout the year at Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30) in Berlin. Junior Rockhounds meet at 7:30pm with the regular meeting beginning around 8 pm.

Anyone with info for the newsletter please share with me. You can be published! Stuff you did in school, on a trip etc., see my info below.

Did you learn anything in month? Here’s a little quiz for you. You know what? You’re on summer vacation. Make your Mom or Dad read this issue and then quiz **them**. See if **they** learned anything!

1. What creates the red and black colors in Montana Agate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The very first gold rush in the United States happened in what state? California, Colorado, Georgia or Massachusetts? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the name of the Spanish explorer that came to the Southeastern area of the United States looking for gold? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who first discovered large amounts of gold at Dahlonega, Georgia? Frank Logan or Benjamin parks? \_\_\_\_\_
5. In what year did the great California Gold Rush occur? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name two impurities that give color to agate. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

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 editor.

To submit an article for publication in the DVESScapades contact the Newsletter Editor. [decuzzic@comcast.net](mailto:decuzzic@comcast.net), or Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Inc., DVESS, P O Box 372 Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052 or DVESS Website: <http://www.dvess.org>  
[garyskyrock@comcast.net](mailto:garyskyrock@comcast.net)

**AFMS CODE OF ETHICS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies)**

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.**
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.**
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.**
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.**
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.**
- I will leave all gates as found.**
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.**
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.**
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.**
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.**
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.**
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.**
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.**
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.**
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.**
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.**
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.**

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August 2009 Puzzle

by

Ed Loveland

Puzzle maker to the DVESScapades for many great years, and well appreciated.

THANKS ED, hope for many more!!!

E	T	I	S	A	C	R	A	M	H	X	Y	N	O	B	R
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THE WORDS ARE:

DEPOSIT  
HELMET  
LAYER  
NOVACEKITE  
ORE  
PELECYPOD  
RATTLEBOX  
TRONA

ALTER  
IRIDESCENT  
MARCASITE  
OCTAHEDRON  
ORTHOCLASE  
PREHNITE  
RUTILATED  
ZINC

DRUSE  
IRON  
MOTTRAMITE  
ONYX  
PALLASITE  
PYROMORPHITE  
SPECIMEN

FACET  
KIMSEYITE  
MUSCOVITE  
OPAL  
PECTOLITE  
PYROPE  
TOPAZ

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



Are you a member of the Mineral of the Month Club yet? [www.mineralofthemonthclub.org](http://www.mineralofthemonthclub.org)

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Make checks payable to Diamond Dan Publications.



Vug (Vuhg) n. - A small cavity in a rock or vein, often with a mineral lining of a different composition from that of the surrounding rock.

We (this website) will be your jumping off point for searching the web for information and sales regarding our fine hobby. Like a crystal-filled void in a host rock, we hope The-Vug will serve as a treasure trove of information!

[www.The-Vug.com](http://www.The-Vug.com)

