



# THE NUGGET



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## Great Things Have Been Happening at the Nassau Mineral Club!

### *From the Editor...*

Since reopening on May 21<sup>st</sup> of this year after a long hiatus due to the pandemic, we have been making strides in revitalizing the club and reorganizing the Club's workshop area. Our own Elise Gad did a yeoman's job organizing that massive closet that holds a myriad of jewelry-making tools and supplies. Meanwhile, Diane Angus, Sue Goldman, and Farooq Hashmi have been busy getting the faceting area ship shape and ready for a whole new batch of faceting folks.

We have welcomed a number of new and returning members and have already had one world-class guest – Justin Prim – of YouTube faceting fame, who gave a tremendous presentation on faceting and gemstones to a crowd of interested members kicking off our new focus on faceting. Since then, a lot of new faces have started coming down to our Saturday workshops and the place is hopping with activity.

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## Meeting Announcement

The next general meeting of the Nassau Mineral Club will be held via zoom on:

**Thursday, September 22nd at 7pm**

The agenda and zoom link will be sent out prior to that time. Watch for it!

Remember, elections will be held at our December meeting. Please consider getting more involved and possibly volunteering for one of the Board positions.

## Guest Speaker – Justin Prim



On July 30th, we had the good fortune to have Justin Prim visit the Nassau Mineral Club workshop for an enlightening discussion. Justin has a YouTube channel with over 10,000 subscribers! Find it at [Justin K Prim](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8vKvKvKvKvKvKvKvKvKvKv).

## Each One Teach One



On June 25th, your humble correspondent got cajoled into teaching an enthusiastic group how to wire wrap a round cabochon following a particular pattern we discovered recently on YouTube. It's unique in that it uses very thick half-round wire in a looping configuration much unlike the usual 3-4 square

wire cabochon wrap most of us are familiar with from earlier designs. We executed the design in copper wire and goldstone cabochons, and I think they came out terrific! *(Pictured are both the goldstone pendant we did as a group and a larger ruby in zoitsite, both wrapped in 14 gauge half-round copper.)*

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## Fossil Collecting in the Big Brook Preserve, Colts Neck, NJ

Our club held a field trip to the Big Brook Preserve and the Ramanessin Creek Preserve in Colts Neck, NJ on August 26 & 27 where everyone can easily find all kinds of marine fossils in the shallow stream beds that cut through the flat, sandy & clay soils. The area is easily the most popular fossil collecting area in the tri-state region.

Wonderfully detailed information on the area and labeled photographs can be found at <http://www.njfossils.net/>

My husband and I, along with fellow member Bill Quinn, had a great time strolling through the clear, cool, calf-deep and bug-free streams, sifting the gravel in the bottom of the streams along the Big Brook and Ramanessin Creek. We also somehow missed meeting up with our friend & fellow member, Atilio Ciucci, who found some nice fossils on his own. Unfortunately, many members could not attend the field trip for a variety of reasons. The preserve is run by the county who was wise enough to provide a clean porta potty, trash cans and free parking for all visitors.

After parking, we walked the well-beaten path to the stream. Here and there we saw steep and not-so-steep cut offs from the path down to the water.

While searching, we saw people and children of all ages, some with dogs, hunting in the brook for the famous fossils. All kinds of tools were used: hand shovels, folding army-type shovels, sifting screens, colanders, tea strainers, sand toy sifters, etc. No matter what tools were used, everyone found something.

I personally found most of my fossils in the lee areas against fallen trees than in the middle of the streams or in/on the gravel banks this time. To imagine what I mean, think about fishing a stream. Big fish lie in wait behind rocks or logs watching for food to flow past them.

We found some things (see the photos) but I think that the long drought affected the collecting this year. You see, when it rains, the brooks fill up with rushing water and flush more fossils out into the streambed. This summer's lack of rain probably meant that the brook beds, scoured by countless collectors, were mostly picked over by the end of the summer, especially the beds closest to the parking lot. We did, however, have a grand time and would love to go back after the winter.

Deb & Bob Hoppe



Bob Hoppe (L) and Bill Quinn (R) - our intrepid explorers.

*This story also appears on our [Club website](#).*

As mentioned above, Atilio also went collecting and made a display, from driftwood, of the fossils he found on that trip. He brought it in to show us!





## Faceting Update

### The NMC Faceting Program is up and running!

A whole batch of members are beginning to learn how to facet each week. Our own Sue Goldman helped a number of us learn the first steps on the road to faceting our own stones.

In addition, several new members are beginning to work on their very first cabochons. It's great to hear the machines in the back humming with activity again!

(Pictured from R to L: Amy, Sue, Mike and Michael.)

## Upcoming Events

October 13-15, 2022

[New York Fall Whole Bead Show](#)

Iron23, 29 West 23rd Street, New York, New York

October 29-30, 2022

[Freeport Gem & Mineral Show](#)

Freeport Recreation Center

130 East Merrick Road, Freeport, New York

For more East Coast events, check out the [EFMLS calendar](#).

## Please Welcome New Members

Michael Canzano

Judy Doyle

Farakh Hashmi

Farooq Hashmi

Saria Hashmi

Deborah Hoppe  
Robert Hoppe  
Donna Ricci  
Paula Rice  
Devin Russell  
Isabella Sackett  
Taner Seckin  
Amanda Tripple  
Bill Quinn  
Elizabeth Wiesemann  
Mary Lou Wojcicki  
Elissa Zodicoff

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## Special Thanks

Special thanks to the Bylaws Committee for all their hard work in updating the Club's Bylaws over the past few months. Kudos to Diane, Sue, Barbara, Jen, June and Cris.

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### **NMC Officers 2022**

PRESIDENTS: Diane Angus and Dennis Kirchner  
VICE PRESIDENT of LAPIDARY: Jim Sisti  
VICE PRESIDENT of MEMBERSHIP: Rose Marie White  
VICE PRESIDENT of EVENTS: Elise Gad  
SECRETARIES: Barbara Kruger and Jen McAndrews  
TREASURER: Elaine Grayson  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Cris Martins  
EFMLS LIASON: June Miller  
WEBMISTRESS: Sue Goldman

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**Nassau Mineral Club**

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