

# Discover Minerals

Traveling Through Geologic History One Rock at a Time!

Volume 2 Issue 2

[www.discover-minerals.com](http://www.discover-minerals.com)

## Inside This Issue

## Features

### Mine of the Month

#### Boss Mine

(Goodsprings District, NV)

While lead and zinc was the main focus of exploration in what was to become the famous Goodsprings District, the search inevitably revealed the presence of numerous other important deposits in the area. Located as a source of copper in 1886, the Boss Mine produced not only copper, but also lead, silver, and gold in its earliest years. Then, surprisingly, platinum and palladium were discovered in the ores in 1914.

### Element of the Month

#### Phosphorus

Produced in supernovae as a byproduct of supernova nucleosynthesis, phosphorus, a Group VA *p*-block non-metal with 15 protons in its nucleus, is the 12th most abundant element found in the Earth's crust (~990ppm; .099%).

## Mineral Showcase

### Nissonite



## DM Field Trips Goodsprings District

Located roughly 30 miles southwest of Las Vegas, NV, the Goodsprings Mining District is famous amongst mineral collectors, and samples of its vast suite of mineral species are represented in museums the world over.

## Articles

### Page 2

#### Identify Your Treasures

Knowledge is the most valuable tool for identifying mineral specimens. The scope of that knowledge, much of which has been reviewed to this point in previous issues, provides the foundation upon which minerals reveal themselves as individual and unique compounds.

### Part Four

#### Chemical Mineralogy:

##### Testing Techniques

### Page 26

#### Basics of Geology:

##### Earth's Dynamic Engine

This series began with a discussion of the component of geophysics that describes Earth's structural layers. It continues with the processes that drive our ever-changing planet...Earth's dynamo, which incorporates radioactivity, heat flow, magnetism, et al.

# Mineral Identification

**Part One**  
Descriptive Mineralogy

**Part Two**  
Determinative Mineralogy

**Part Five**  
Crystallography

**Part Three**  
Physical Mineralogy

**Part Four**  
Chemical Mineralogy