



NOVA ASHI Monthly Messenger

APRIL 2011

#8, Vol. 3

**Next Meeting is
Tuesday,
April 26th at
7:00 PM
Associates Hour
Begins at 6:00 PM**

The Associate's Hour Speaker:

The Associate's Hour speaker will be our very own moldy oldy Brian Koepf speaking on mold identification and testing.

The Meeting's speaker:

Doctoral Candidate John Bouldin will once again be our speaker for the educational session of the meeting. John will be continuing his presentation from last October on the structural characteristics of wood fibers.

MEETING LOCATION

**@
NVRC Offices
3951 Pender Drive. Suite 130,
Fairfax, Virginia**

President's Notes:



More good news! The web site committee, with the approval of the Board has hired Dominic Maricic to create a new web site for us. He has created web sites for several ASHI Chapters (they do not look cookie cutter). Check out the April ASHI Reporter and you will find Dominic on page 28.

Our Chapter will be getting a visit on May 24th from the ASHI Chapter Relations Committee Chairman, David Sherwood. He will be preparing a dynamite presentation especially for our Chapter. He will explain how we can make our Chapter more valuable to all members and how that in turn will help our individual business's.

Additional good stuff promised for the meeting. Don't miss it. See you there!

Pete



ASHI SCHOOL CORNER

Straight from the grey matter of Headmaster **Fred Heppner**, each month "The Hepp" will exercise your minds with questions to challenge you. Each meeting, Fred will call on you for the answers. Here We Go!

1. **What was the first year that the NEC require the use of GFCI's and what were they to be used for?**
2. **What year did the NEC require all bathroom & outdoor receptacles to be protected by GFCI's**
3. **The IRC requires stair handrails. When did the UBC and CABO require them?**
4. **Since when did the NEC require no more than 6 trigger switches or breakers in a single enclosure to disconnect all power?**

GOOD LUCK!

Caption If You Can!



Send me your suggestions for a caption for this picture and receive no prizes! Hurry, Time's a wastin'. Send your submissions to [Jim Funkhouser](#) (it's ok, just click on my name. It's a link to my email address. Go ahead. It won't hurt...much (now, make an

Jim Funkhouser's 5-minute Seminar



Vermiculite Insulation

I recently ran into a very serious (and expensive) potential health problem that we all have encountered but have not been sure exactly what to say or how to stay safe when encountering this material. Having done some research, I thought I'd share with you what I learned to help keep you and your customers safe when you find **Vermiculite Insulation**.



Vermiculite is a natural mineral that expands or "exfoliates" when heated. The name Vermiculite comes from the Latin "Vermiculare" meaning "to breed worms". The exfoliated vermiculite is lightweight and has very good fire-resistance and insulating properties. However, the same geological process that turns Biotite into vermiculite also turns the similar mineral diopside into asbestos. While not all vermiculite contains asbestos, that which came from the Libby, Montana mine and a mine in Virginia, did contain asbestos. Little more than a couple of references to the Virginia mine was found however, much is known about the vermiculite mined in Montana.

evil laugh sound to yourself and run around the room pretending you're wearing a cape)

FISBO



Announcing the start of a new area in the newsletter called FISBO.

This is where members in the chapter can advertise tools, books, office equipment, etc... for sale. Just provide a picture of the item, a brief description of what it is and its condition, your name and a contact number and/or email address and submit it to:

JFUNKHOUSR@aol.com

THE TRIPLE "M"

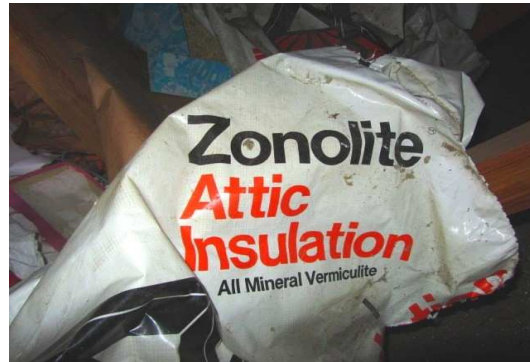
(Messenger Monthly Meditation)

Here's your thought for April:



**YOUR NOVA ASHI
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS,
COMMITTEE CHAIRS
AND REPRESENTATIVES
FOR 2010-2011`**

PRESIDENT: Pete Jung



The Libby, Montana mine began operation in the 1920's and was purchased by W. R. Grace in 1963. The mine was very productive and most of what W. R. Grace mined was sold as loose insulation, named after the mountain from which it was mined, Zonolite Mountain. Zonolite was sold and distributed all across the country from the late 1950's to the early 1980's. The U. S. Government estimates that vermiculite insulation was used in 35 million homes in the U.S. The mine was closed in 1990. The presence of asbestos in their product was reportedly known to W. R. Graces executives as early as the 1960's but nothing was done. To date, the small town of Libby, Montana has lost more than 200 of her residents to lung-related diseases including Lung Cancer, Asbestosis and Mesothelioma. The specific type of asbestos in Zonolite is particularly bad; an amphibole asbestos called "Tremolite" which has very sharp, needle-like ends that easily embed themselves in lung tissue. The Environmental Protection Agency has spent 120 million dollars in Superfund money to clean up Libby and areas around the mine.



What should you do when you find vermiculite insulation in a house you are inspecting? First, get out of the attic as quickly as possible without disturbing anything. I was lucky enough to have the empty bags present to identify the insulation as Zonolite but, more often those bags are long gone. **YOU MUST ASSUME THE VERMICULITE INSULATION YOU ENCOUNTER CONTAINS ASBESTOS.** The Environmental Protection Agency states on their web site that if you encounter vermiculite insulation in an attic to not go into the attic, to not let children go into the attic, seal gaps in the sealing at penetrations where insulation or fibers can enter the living space, that if you must go into the attic, do so without disturbing anything and if you have repairs or remodeling done that will disturb the insulation, you contact

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and Jim Funkhouser

Quick Links

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[NOVA ASHI](#)
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a qualified contractor to safely deal with the insulation.



My recommendation is to tell ALL PARTIES of the transaction (especially the homeowner) of the presence of vermiculite insulation, that it may contain asbestos, that it need's to be tested for the presence of asbestos and, if asbestos is found, the vermiculite is to be professionally removed by a qualified, licensed asbestos abatement company.

Three of these pictures in this article were taken by me in a townhouse attic in Leesburg...albeit very quickly. The most important point is, when you see this stuff, **Get The Hell Out Of The Attic**...we have too few dues-paying members as it is ;))

Jim

THE NOVA ASHI LIBRARY

Our lending library is available for all of you as a benefit of chapter membership. Amongst other items, we have the ASHI @ Home series; a \$2000.00 set of reference and learning materials, at your disposal. We need to know who has what materials out. Please see Jim Kasterko, Bil Greg or myself if you have library materials checked out or wish to check out materials.

[Take your time off to hone those killer inspection skills!](#)