

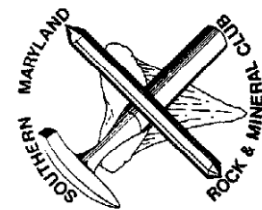
May 2008



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



# Rock Talk



# Message from the President

This month we are in Georgia at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. It is about 600 miles from home. We stopped at Johnson City, Tenn. the first night which was about 400 miles down the road. Then on Saturday, we stopped to see Jeanne Rhodes-Moen a former member of our club in Asheville, NC. She is putting together a beautiful line of filagree jewelry in sterling silver. So far the weather has been just right. Mel is teaching faceting and has a class of four. I'm taking a sil-

ver class, and our first project involved sawing and sweat-soldering two pieces of silver together. I now have to polish the piece. We are planning on being back for the June meeting and will want to finalize our By-laws at that time. Do remember those of our member who are ill. Roger is recovering from a stroke and Diane continues to have assorted problems. If you know of a member or if you

are ill, please let us know. Keeping you in our thoughts. Lorna



## Region IV Annual Picnic and Swap

Lake Anna State Park Shelter #1

June 21, 2008

10:00-4:00

**Directions:** I-95 to exit #118 Thornburg; West on Rte 606 to Rte 208; Turn left onto Rte 208; Continue to Rte 601 and turn right onto Rte 601 (turn is just past Lake Anna Marine Supplies & Hardware); Continue on Rte 601 then turn left into Park; follow park road to lake, shelter is around to the left past the park facilities.

*Photo Courtesy of Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society*

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### Meetings

...are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

**Clearwater Nature Center 11000 Thrift Road Clinton, MD.**

**For more information, call Michael at (301) 297-4575.**

# May's Birthstone: The Emerald

By Lorna Larson



The Emerald belongs to the beryl family. The formula for beryl consists of  $\text{Be}_2\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{16}$  with the emerald being formed when chromium replaces aluminum in the beryl structure. Technically, only the beryl colored by chromium is an emerald although those colored by vanadium are also allowed to be called emeralds. All other green beryls are called green beryl. Hardness is 7.5 - 8.

Real emeralds and lab emeralds made with chromium will show up red when viewed through a Chelsea filter. Unlike the other beryls, emeralds are almost always included. Additionally, almost as soon as the emerald crystal is removed from the ground, it is dropped in oil, and may be oiled several times prior to being set. Hence, if it begins to look dull or rather chalky, it needs to be re-oiled. One author recommended re-oiling every 2 - 5 years. Never put it in a sonic cleaner or steamer as this removes the oil and could break the stone.

The name comes from the Greek work "smaragdos" which simply means "green." Early Egyptians mined "emeralds" prior to 2000 BC in an area between the Nile and the Red Sea in upper Egypt. Supposedly these mines belonged to the Queen of Sheba, but are now called Cleopatra's Mines. But these stones were small and not always the best color. Some of the stones that have survived from that period were tested and determined to be green beryl. Unfortunately, prior to modern times when the composition of a stone could be determined chemically, people named gems according to color. Therefore, other green stones such as peridot were called emeralds. Then in the 1500's, Spain invaded South America and began selling South American emeralds world wide which were sometimes misidentified as to their source. Emeralds have long had a spiritual component. The Egyptian Book of the Dead instructed those who embalmed the dead to place emeralds at the throat of every mummy to ensure the limbs of the soul had sufficient youthful strength to protect it from harm. In Christianity, a Christian bishop dedicated the stone to St. John, and it is the fourth foundation stone for the New Jerusalem. It is named as one of the stones in Aaron's Breastplate with the tribe of Gad written on it within the Jewish tradition, and the Muslims use it to represent their first heaven.

Many cultures attributed various healing attributes to the emerald and used them as talismans to ensure an easy birth and to treat various other ills. Nero was reported to have eye glasses made of emerald to enhance his eyesight. In actuality, it was probably one of the other beryls. It was also associated with lovers; and like the turquoise, a loss of its color indicated their beloved had been unfaithful. Historically, this stone has one of the longest record of any gem and deserves its place in history as a major gemstone.

Perhaps you will enjoy being a part of that tradition in owning such a stone. Just make certain you take proper care of it, and it will be a stone to pass down to descendants with a lore and history that outshines any other gem. Aren't those who were born in May lucky.

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\*\*\*If corrections or additions are needed, please contact Rocktalk Editor

# “Scott”

By Dave Lines

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Recently, while talking to my cousin on the phone, she mentioned that her son, Scott, had polished some rocks with sandpaper. (SANDPAPER?!! Tell me more!) Well, he was not home, but all she knew was that Scott had found some rocks in the neighborhood and used sandpaper to polish some of them by hand. (WOW!! This young fellow has super potential as a rockhound!)

Scott is just a normal kid living in the Maryland suburbs north of Washington, D.C.. He currently is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and likes to skateboard. His mom is my second cousin, so that makes Scott my cousin, too.

After the conversation with his mom, I kept thinking about Scott. Up to now I had been remiss at family gatherings by not paying very much attention to him, so I did not know much about Scott. Never-the-less, if he liked rocks, I decided that I would try to do something to encourage his interest. So I emailed his mom and dad and asked if Scott wanted to join me for a short rockhound trip. I had a location in mind that was near them. It was a wooded stream bottom that had almandine garnets (weathered, but still recognizable as garnet crystals), pegmatite quartz, some mica, mica schist and maybe a few other minerals if we were lucky.

The reply came the next day --- “Yes, Scott would love to go.” So we set it up to meet at his house at about 10 “ish” on Saturday morning. I told him to wear old clothes, old shoes or rubber boots and to bring a few snacks and something to drink.

The weather was beautiful --- sunny and warm --- when I pulled up in front of his house. Scott answered the doorbell with a rock already in his hand. (YUP!! He is really interested!) I asked what it was and he explained that it was a piece of serpentine (that is what his neighbor had said) that he had found nearby.

He handed me a fist-sized chunk of rough, dark gray rock, and as I turned it over and noticed that one side was flat and absolutely smooth. I suggested that we step outside in the sunshine so we could examine his rock more closely. In the bright sunlight, it was beautiful --- a piece of dark gray serpentine rock with splashes of olive green --- polished on one side to a really good finish.

When I asked Scott how he did it, he explained that first, he rubbed the stone on the sidewalk to make it flat on one side (Can you imagine how many hours it took him to grind off an inch of stone?). Then he rubbed it on sandpaper --- initially with 60 grit and worked up to 600 grit. It was really nicely done. I was impressed! Not only had Scott achieved a good polish, he had figured out the basics of lapidary all by himself. Most of all, his ingenuity, persistence and patience were amazing.

I asked if he had any more --- and he brought out a shoe box containing maybe 20 different rocks that he had collected --- some from his neighborhood and some from other places. So I sat down on the front steps with him while he explained each one. I told him the names of them when I knew. White quartz. Mica schist. More serpentine. A piece of yellow jasper. Smoky quartz. Another polished stone --- a 3 inch piece of tan colored quartzite that he had polished the same way. Though the polish was not quite as good as the serpentine, it was incredible that he had achieved any polish at all since he was using quartz sandpaper to polish quartzite rock --- both were the same hardness.

Scott was proud of his collection --- and rightfully so. I hope that he keeps everyone of these rocks since they are the very first ones he collected. Because if he keeps them, someday he will look at them and remember back to now with a big smile.

Now it was my turn. I gave Scott a small paperback book about Rocks and Minerals, then spent a couple of minutes showing him how to use some of the information in the book. For example, how rocks were formed in three basic ways --- igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Then I showed him which of his rocks were in those categories. But I tried to be careful not to overwhelm him with too much info.

At about 10:30 or so, I suggested that we get going and find some rocks. We said bye to his mom --- and, a minute or so later, to his dad who was sprucing up the entrance to their subdivision with several other folks. Scott had brought along his backpack. (Good.) On the drive over to the spot where we were going, he wanted to know if I liked “M&M’s”. (Candy?) No, music by the band “M&M’s”. (Oh

Continued on page 5

# “Ruck’s Pit”

A Trip Report By Carole Raucheisen



While in Florida vacationing in March, we had a little extra time, so we decided to ride by Ruck’s Pit to see where it was, not really expecting it to be open, but deep down hoping it was. We left Vero Beach on the Atlantic Ocean and headed west on Rt. 60. We drove past the outlying shopping malls, the orange and grapefruit groves, some unseen grove of sweetly smelling crop, and there amid the cattle ranches was a wide place in the road called Fort Drum.

There, we asked at the feed store for directions. After riding for a few more miles, we came to the site. A No Trespassing sign halted us at the fence. So we called the phone number posted with the sign, and someone actually answered it. And, guess what? It was open. Just follow the road, the woman said, and you will find Eddie with a group of people.

Arriving at the end of the road, we saw mounds of dirt and about 15 people changing clothes and shoes, and scurrying back and forth from their cars to the mounds carrying tools. We identified someone who looked like they were in charge, and approached him competing for attention with everyone else.

Eddie Ruck said it would cost \$30 per person per day. We pleaded for a half-day rate because we were so unprepared: no tools, old clothing, shoes, gloves, etc., and because we needed to head back north. But, no deal. He offered to lend us some tools, and gave us the marketing special. What were we to do? Of course, we paid our \$60. After donning a ragged old nightgown over my best jeans, we dug in.



Ruck’s Pit, officially known as Fort Drum Crystal Mine, bills itself as the largest supplier of calcite in clams. Most collectors are after the Nashua-formation Mercenaria clams filled with golden calcite crystals, and they are plentiful. It is however, difficult to find whole specimens.

Not impossible though. Most all of the people digging that day were members of rock and mineral clubs, from Florida and Arkansas mostly, and they knew what they were doing. One couple, having been to Ruck’s several times, found 6 perfect whole specimens with calcite crystals. Eddie said they would easily sell for \$40 each. That’s if you want to sell them quickly. He’s seen them priced for \$200.

The most successful mining technique seemed to be a two-person job. One person stands or sits on the top of a mound, squirting a water hose down the side. (Water spigots and hoses are adjacent to the mounds.) The other person, stands at the bottom or midway, and pulls the water-soaked dirt and debris down with a rake. This exposed the best specimens found that day.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

# ...Scott

Continued...

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my! --- I was totally out of touch.) Well, I did not know, but I suggested that he leave his music and Ipod (?) in the glove compartment because it might fall in the stream. The location was easy to find --- only a few turns ---so I told Scott to remember how we went so he could guide his dad or mom back another time. We talked about what we might find.

We parked at the end of the street and headed into woods on the hiking trail. Scott spotted a deer -- then several more behind the first one. They were "city deer" --- not afraid of us. About 50 yards later I saw some large boulders off to the side of the trail. Investigating, I pointed out a drill hole that had been used to insert dynamite and blast these quartz and schist boulders from their original location. Cool. Then looking over the boulders carefully one-by-one, I showed Scott some embedded garnets. Okay, he now had an idea of what we were looking for. We followed the trail down to the stream which was crossed by a foot bridge for hikers.

Moving off the trail again at the bridge, we headed upstream. It was small --- only 5 to 10 feet wide --- with lots of rocks and gravel in and along the sides of the stream. Then I suggested to Scott that we search in a gravel bar for loose garnets. Bingo. I found a small pea-sized one immediately and gave it to Scott. They looked like little brown soccer balls. I spotted another one and showed Scott how they blended into the gravel. I told him that he would start finding lots of them as soon as his eyes started recognizing them. Right on cue, Scott found one. We scratched the top layer of gravel away with a piece of stick. Scott found more. We both found a couple more, then we moved upstream a few yards to an area of gravel in among some larger rocks. When we scratched away the wet leaves and sticks, we both found a lot of garnets.

Then I began pointing out pieces of schist with the garnets still embedded. Scott liked those. He soon found a piece of schist with small black tourmaline crystals (schorl) embedded. A good find. Soon we found others. Scott was keeping everything and his backpack was getting heavier. I suggested that he temporarily stack his finds on top of prominent rocks and he could decide later what to keep and what to leave behind. I also told him that he could keep as much as he wanted but that he had to carry his backpack. That way, he would have to decide whether keeping another rock was worth the extra weight.

Continuing upstream, we found many garnets, some quite a bit larger. Scott found the biggest one of the day by himself --- nearly an inch across. He also found some books of mica, some schorl crystals that had been freed from the schist and some massive smoky quartz. We stopped and had some of our snacks while sitting on big rocks along the stream. Scott found a salamander, a small water snake and a frog --- he caught the salamander and, eventually, the frog.

At about 1 p.m., we headed back downstream and checked out another spot further along the trail, but no luck there as recent high water had washed mud over the area. When I decided that it was time to go home, Scott's eyes were still searching the ground for more garnets. We went back toward the car by a different path and Scott found another garnet right in the path near the car.

On the drive back to his house, I gave Scott a small box of clear quartz crystals from Chestnut Ridge, Virginia with a label identifying them. I stressed to Scott the importance of labeling his rocks. At his house, I wrote down the names of everything we had found and where we had found it and the date. Learning by example. He remembered to retrieve his Ipod



from the glove compartment --- I had forgotten. I said goodbye to Scott and his mom and told them that I had enjoyed the trip and hoped that we might go on another one in a month or so.

We now have plans to go to the Morefield Mine in Amelia, Virginia. He will like that.



# “Ruck’s Pit”

CONTINUED

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So Al and I spent the whole day there, happily digging for clams, surrounded by the sounds of cattle bellowing and cowboys hollering in the background. At five, we headed home, looking at a 5- hour drive to meet our night’s destination. And as we pulled into our hotel at 10:00, with bleeding and blistered fingers, we didn’t care. We had a whole bunch of prehistoric clams filled with shimmering golden calcite crystals.



## LaPlata Library Display

Put together by Dave Lines

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Dave Lines put together this beautiful display at the La Plata Public Library.

It’s wonderful Dave!  
Thanks for all you do for the SMRMC!!!

# Manassas-147 Years After the Battle of Bull Run

A Field Trip Report By Dave Lines-- Photos By Ralph Gamba

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A warm late April morning in Manassas, Virginia --- a century and a half after the Civil War battle --- and perhaps eons after the minerals which we were looking for had formed. We were on the "160 level" --- that is, 160 feet below the surface level of the great open pit of Vulcan's Manassas Quarry --- looking for anything different in this vast area of otherwise uniformly gray diabase rock. That difference might signal our being able to find some of the zeolites for which this fine old location was noted.

Eleven souls from as far away as Lynchburg, Virginia, had gathered by 7:30 a.m. on this Saturday in the quarry office parking lot for a Safety Brief and the signing of a Release of Liability.

"Stay out of the lowest level of the pit because it is flooded due to all the recent rains," warned Mickey, our friendly and helpful quarry representative that morning. After a quick view (new for some of us and a 'review' for the rest) of zeolite samples in his office, he lead our small caravan of vehicles around and through a maze of rock crushing equipment and huge hauling trucks down the long haul road into the quarry.

We noted a great deal of mining activity had occurred since our previous visit last October. The area where we had done so well finding prehnite and datolite last time was just "gone" --- the entire bench had been removed. The large tree covered earthen berm at the top of the quarry in front of the office and truck scales area had been hauled away and a new upper level bench over 200 yards long had replaced it. Several benches showed recent activity. Near the bottom, our group split, with some returning back up to a mid level bench at the site of a fresh shot. These folks, all from the Southern Maryland club, included Bob Davidson, Andrea Jefferson, Larry O'Callaghan, Ralph Gamba, Mary Cramer and Gary Lohman. The other group, Dave Lines, Polly Zimmerman (both from Southern Maryland) and John and Gina Hatcher and Lisa Murrell (all from the Lynchburg club) went to next-to-the-bottom level.

The lower group spotted some calcite crystals almost immediately and worked them for a few minutes before spreading out to explore other areas. John and Gina liked just about everything and piled many large rocks (destined for a rock garden) in their big diesel powered truck. They also found a few pieces of green prehnite on the safety berm along the road.

Back to the 160 level where Dave and Polly scouted, they spotted a pale green stripe across the face of a gray hunk of diabase. Stopping the truck, they carefully searched the area around the first piece and found ten bread loaf-sized rocks and many smaller rocks all with green prehnite showing. A few even had small ¼ inch clear crystals of apophyllite in cavities. Splitting the larger rocks with a chisel and 3 pound hammer, revealed numerous specimens of prehnite covered variously with small crystals of datolite, calcite, apophyllite, and some nice micros of byssolite and some small white needle-like crystals.

Meanwhile, John, Gina and Lisa also discovered another area of a bit larger calcite crystals on the 160 level. One of John's most attractive calcite plates was 4" by 6" with very clear ½" dogtooth crystals. Polly and Dave decided to check out the same area and they found lots more of the small calcite, and large pieces of massive white calcite that weighed as much as 30 pounds each.

At about 10:00, the upper group decided to explore the bottom of the pit and found more calcite, prehnite and some decent stilbite that the first group had missed. Both groups eventually joined up on the 160 level, just before Mickey sounded his truck horn to signal us that it was time to leave the quarry.

After driving out, we all rendezvoused at the office parking lot and spent 15 minutes showing each other some of the goodies that we had "saved from the crusher". Among the best were some nice specimens found by Bob of iridescent chalcopryrite and bornite and a truly beautiful fist-sized specimen of ½ inch tan colored stilbite crystals (look like small wheat sheaves) loosely overlaid with ½ inch translucent milky calcite crystals (in rhombohedra-scalenohedral crystal form --- look that one up on Google!!). Ralph and Mary found more of the chalcopryrite, bornite as well as a few pieces of prehnite. Ralph found a particularly flashy specimen of small pyrite crystals, too. Bob, Larry and Andrea (Andie, for short) drove around to just about every level of the quarry and found some of everything including prehnite, stilbite, bornite and calcite. Andie summed it up best --- "I had a great time on this trip and the time allowed went by too quickly."



# Constitution and By-Laws

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A couple of months ago, the President of the Club, Lorna Larson, established a committee to review the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club and make recommendations for any changes needed to bring it up to date. The committee consisting of Polly Zimmerman, Carole Rauchiesen, and Bob Davidson made recommendations that were used to draft a new version of the Constitution. It is included in this months Rock Talk for all members to review prior to the vote for approval

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB

### Article 1. Name and Affiliation

#### Section 1. Name

The Name of this organization is The Southern Maryland Rock And Mineral Club, hereinafter referred to as the Club.

#### Section 2. Affiliation

This Club is affiliated with the Clearwater Nature Center, an entity of the Louise F. Cosca Regional Park of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Center, and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., through the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Eastern Federation.

### Article 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Club is:

1. To stimulate interest in the earth sciences and hobbies associated with rocks and minerals, fossils and lapidary arts.
  2. To encourage and work for improvement in the art of gem cutting and making jewelry.
  3. To provide members with opportunities to collect and identify rocks, minerals, and fossils.
- To provide opportunities for fellowship among members and with other clubs and societies having similar aims and interests.

### Article 3. Membership

#### Section 1. Eligibility

Membership in the Club is open to anyone interested in one or more of the purposes listed under Article 2.

#### Section 2. Classes of Membership

A. **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP** is available to one person. If two people in a family join the Club, they must join as Individual Members.

B. **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP** is available to three or more people in a family.

C. **CLEARWATER NATURE CENTER ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** is an additional membership that allows special privileges that are not afforded by Individual or Family membership alone, including the use of the Center's Lapidary Facility, and participation in other M-NCPPC sponsored activities.

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP** may be granted by the Center to individuals who perform over 50 hours of volunteer service to the Center in a calendar year or at the discretion of the Director of the Center. Honorary Members are not required to pay dues.

#### Section 3. Admission to Membership

A. Applicants shall complete and sign the formal application form provided by the Center.



B. Members shall be in Good Standing when their dues are current, they have attended at least four scheduled Club meetings in a 12-month period, and they adhere to the Club's accepted Code of Ethics (attached as an addendum to these By-Laws).

C. Special privileges shall be granted to Members in Good Standing, including one free table at the Annual Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Members not in Good Standing may be removed from membership by a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

#### Section 4. Dues

A. The dues amount shall be set by the Center. The Center will collect dues from each member, record and maintain a membership roster, and notify the Club of new members.

B. The year for dues shall begin January 1.

C. All dues are payable to the Clearwater Nature Center. Individuals may elect to join the Club only, or to participate as a Clearwater Nature Associate. A portion of the Club dues also provides membership in the Eastern Federation.

### Article 4. Officers

#### Section 1. Titles

The Officers of the Club shall consist of:

- A. President,
- B. Membership Chairman,
- C. Field Trip Chairman,
- D. Program Chairman,
- E. Secretary,
- F. Treasurer,  
Editor,  
Webmaster and  
Liaison Officer (appointed by the Center).

*Alternates may be elected to co-chair these positions.*

#### Section 2. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of current Club Officers, the past President, and the Director of the Center. The Executive Committee shall meet if the President or the Center's Liaison Officer declares a need to do so. Such reasons may be to appoint a new officer to replace one that is unable to fulfill his or her duties, or if a major policy change is made by the Center that affects the Club. The meeting will take place at the Center on a day and time set by the Liaison Officer.

#### Section 3. Elections

If more than one person has been nominated for an Office and has agreed to serve, election of that position shall be by secret ballot at the November meeting. Otherwise, the slate of Officers will be elected by a show of hands representing the majority of members present. Officer's terms shall be for a calendar year, starting January 1.

### Article 5. Duties of Officers

#### Section 1. President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and Executive Committee, shall appoint all committee chairmen, shall be the official spokesman for the club, and shall exert every effort to carry out the provisions of these By-Laws and perform other duties customary to the office.

#### Section 2. Membership Chairman

The Membership Chairman shall work closely with the Center to keep apprised of new members, shall contact new members and answer any questions they may have, shall introduce new members at Club meetings. He or she shall also maintain a current membership roster containing the member's name, address, phone number(s), and email address.

### Section 3. Field Trip Chairman

The Field Trip Chairman shall plan field trips that are of interest to Club members, shall discuss upcoming field trips at Club meetings including locations, dates, times, traveling arrangements, a description of specimens that may be found, equipment needed, and other pertinent information. He or she shall designate a Leader for each trip who will coordinate all activities during the trip and ensure that a report is made to the membership at the next meeting.

The Programs Chairman shall seek volunteers to make special presentations at Club meetings that are of interest to the membership, shall coordinate with the Center to ensure that any equipment needed for the presentation is made available.

### **Section 5. The Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Club and Executive Committee, and conduct the Club's routine correspondence.

### **Section 6. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall receive all non-membership money and hold it in a cash fund. It may consist of donations, the sale of donated items, or other fund raising activities that are not in conflict with the Center. The fund will be used to cover costs not normally provided by the Center, such as Memorial Contributions to the Eastern Federation. Funds in excess of \$500 will be donated to the Center.

### **Section 7. Editor**

The Club Editor shall create a monthly newsletter for distribution to Club members.

### **Section 8. Webmaster**

The Webmaster shall develop and maintain a Club website with information of interest to Club members and the public in general.

### **Section 9. Liaison Officer**

The Liaison Officer is an employee of the Center who provides logistic and oversight support to the Club.

## **Article 6. Standing Committees**

### **Section 1.**

Except as otherwise provided herein, the President shall appoint the chairmen of all standing committees, the Nominating Committee, and special committees he or she deems advisable to fill club needs.

### **Section 2.**

Each committee shall consist of the chairman and such members as he or she shall select.

### **Section 3.**

The Nominating Committee for the selection of new officers shall consist of the committee chairman and two other members appointed by the President. At the October Club meeting, the Committee will announce the names of the nominees. Voting by Club members will take place at the November meeting as stated in Article 7, Section 3.

### **Section 4.**

Except as otherwise stated herein, the President shall outline the duties of the Committees.

## **Article 7. Club Meetings**

### **Section 1.**

Regular monthly meetings shall be held at the Center at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month, unless changed by the membership.

### **Section 2.**

Special meetings for specifically announced purposes may be called by the Executive Committee on 5 day's notice to the membership.

### **Section 3.**

The Annual meeting of the Club shall be the regular meeting for November. Election of Officers shall be held at that time. Newly elected officers shall assume their duties on January 1<sup>st</sup> following the November elections.

## **Article 8. Order of Business**

The normal order of business at regular meetings of the club is:

Call to Order, followed by:

Introduction of guests and new members

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meetings

Treasurer's Report

Membership Report

Program Report

Field Trip Report

Editor Report

Webmaster Report

Old Business

New Business

Special Announcements

Refreshment Break

Program Presentation

Adjournment

The presiding officer may vary the order of business.

## **Article 9. Amendments**

### **Section 1.**

All proposed amendments to these By-Laws shall be presented by the President, on behalf of the Executive Committee, at a regular meeting of the Club. The proposal shall be presented in the following month's issue of Rock Talk. The vote for adoption shall take place at the next regular meeting.

### **Section 2.**

Five members, by written demand, may require the Executive Committee to present proposals for amendment at any meeting; the Executive Committee shall have at least 31 days to study and prepare the proposed changes before they must be presented to the membership at a regular meeting.

## **Article 10. Termination of the Club**

### **Section 1.**

The Club shall be considered terminated when  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the voting membership votes at a regular scheduled meeting of the Club that the Club no longer complies with the purposes set forth in Article 2. Notice of Intent to Present such a Motion shall be approved by the Executive Committee and provided in writing to all members at their last known address, at least 20 days before the date of its presentation. Absentee ballots, signed by the member(s) shall be accepted.

### **Section 2.**

The Club shall be considered terminated when there remains 6 or fewer members, as defined in Article 3, Section 2.

### **Section 3.**

Immediately upon termination of the Club, as defined herein, all assets remaining after payment of just debts, shall be transferred to the Clearwater Nature Center, its successors, or the M-NCPPC.

**END OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**



# ROCKTALK

Clearwater Nature Center  
 Maryland-National Capital Park &  
 Planning Commission  
 11000 Thrift Road



**We're on the web:**  
[www.freewebs.com/smrmc/](http://www.freewebs.com/smrmc/)

## Message from the Editor

With all the rain this past month, it's amazing that we are able to get anything done at all. I hope everyone fared well through the downpours!

We are approaching mid-year very quickly and we are starting to lose momentum on programs. Please make sure you check for an empty month and if you haven't presented, contact Polly.

Again, keep those articles coming. It's wonderful to hear what everyone does on their trips and if you find anything interesting that you'd like to share, pass it along! Even articles from magazines or websites will interest others, especially if they don't know about it!

Hope everyone is well and see you on the 27th!



Look at the beauties found by those who went to Herkimer May 4-9, 2008.

Amazing finds guys!

*Photo courtesy of Bob Davidson  
<http://www.freewebs.com/smrmc/FieldTripReport%2005-04-08%20Herkimer.doc>*

### PROGRAMS/ REFRESHMENTS

May	Program- _____ Refreshments-Mike and Faith
June	Program- _____ Refreshments-Larry O'Callaghan
July	Programs-Diane Porter Refreshments-Tom and Cobb Allison
August	Annual Auction and Potluck
September	Program- _____ Refreshments-Ralph Gamba
October	Program- _____ Refreshments- Polly Z and Jessica T