

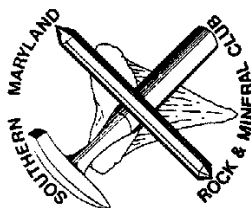
October 2008



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

It is that time of year again when we must nominate new officers for the coming year.

For those of you who have accepted the awesome responsibility of being one of those officers, I thank you. It is only with new people taking these offices that new ideas can be generated and acted upon. Yes, we are all busy and stressed, but our love of this segment of our marvelous world can only be passed on by us and those like us. Too many of our citizens are losing touch with our physical world and only through us and those like us can the average person touch, appreciate, and learn to protect this aspect. If we do not protect, understand, and cherish our physical world, we as a species will die out much quicker.

Even though we pass the mantle of leading to others, the rest of us need to support and assist our leaders. One of these areas has to do with programs. Our program

Chairperson is to coordinate said programs that WE bring to the Club. It is true we are there to learn, but one of the best ways to do that is to teach. Pick a subject you would like to know more about; e.g., more about the geology of the bay or other area, the dinosaurs of Maryland, the different types of sharks teeth and how to determine what shark dropped them, or how to recognize significant fossils. It is frequently the hobbyist who makes a significant find (Dave found the jaw of an alligator/crocodile and notified appropriate people to collect it.) of which several have been in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Or maybe there are some unusual mineral deposits in Maryland or nearby states. So please step up and say you'll present a program. Some have had information from work that addressed some of these areas, so feel free to share what you can. Older members will be glad to help and to provide samples if they

have them. We really have some very talented people in our Club, so please share that with us. Polly has really done well in seeing that we have had programs this past year, and Bob and Dave have done well with our trips. Ralph has started listing field trips that are available through other avenues. There is so much we could do if we had the time. My sister in Okla., continues to comment on how active our Club seems to be and has been amazed at some of our activities. That makes me feel very appreciative of what we have.

Again, it takes new people taking leadership roles, at least for a period, to bring in new activities and ideas, not only for programs and trips, but also for the ongoing functioning of the Club. So I thank those who are willing to step up to the plate and give it a try. Lorna

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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.

October's Birthstone: Tourmaline

By Lorna Larson



The word comes from turamali, a Singhalese word meaning "mixed colored stones" and as such, is frequently confused with other stones.

According to Kunz, the first writings regarding Natal or Birthstones can be traced back to Josephus, the Jewish historian with the Roman suppression of the Jewish revolt in the first century. The practice of wearing ones birthstone appears to have started in Poland probably as a result of the Jewish gem traders in the 18th century. There were several versions of birthstones going back to different areas of the world, and it was not until 1912 that the National Association of Jewelers determined what became the standard for our current birthstone list. However, if an individual goes to a jewelry store and request birthstones, alternative stones may be suggested depending upon how deep ones pocket book is. It is better to sell a lesser stone than to miss a sale. Isn't free enterprise wonderful?

He thought that the gems prescribed by usage should have been used: beryl for October. If one lived in the US, why not aquamarine from N. Carolina, Maine or California? After all, tourmaline as a named stone has only been known since the 18th century when the Dutch imported it from Sri Lanka. When heated or rubbed, the crystal became polarized with one end + and the other, -. When this occurs, the crystal will pick up or push small pieces of paper, etc. So the Dutch used this process to pull ash out of their smoking pipes. They called it "aschentrekker" or ash puller.

Although the Association did not specify a specific color for the tourmaline, the pink tourmaline became associated as the stone for October. California produces a lovely pink called Pala tourmaline. Another tour-

maline that is marketed with a place name is the Praiba tourmaline with its intense blues from Brazil. Dealers and others have said that there has been a strike in Africa that is similar to the original Pariba tourmaline and will be marketed as a Pariba tourmaline. So when place names are used ask for the point of origin as the stone may actually have come from a location other than the original deposit.

Tourmaline is a very complex mineral with at least six different families depending upon slight changes in their formulation. These families are Dravite (yellow brown to dark brown or very rarely clear), Uvite (black, brown or green, usually dark), Schorl (black, blue or blue-green), Buergerite (dark brown to black with a bronze colored iridescence or Schiller under the surface), Liddicoatite (did not list colors, but had thought to be elbaite until investigated) and Elbaite (all colors).

Certain designations have become associated with certain colors of tourmaline: Achroite- colorless, Rubellite - shades of pink and red, and indicolite - shades of blue. Crystals are grown in the hexagonal (trigonal) crystal shape with striations running the length of the crystal. This growth habit is very typical of the mineral and a major identifier when identifying this mineral. So if you do not like the pink tourmaline for your October birthstone, shop around for one that is the color you like, or else, find a nice beryl.

References:

Arem, Joel E. Color encyclopedia of gemstones. VanNostrand Reinhold Co., New York, NY, 1972.

Kunz, George Frederick. The curious lore of precious stones. Bell Publishing Co., New York, 1989 edition.

(He lived from 1856 - 1932 and was a noted authority in the field.)

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

Minutes...

Sandy Lyon

September 23, 2008 Lorna presided over the meeting.

Member updates

Flo Strean, Roger Birkemeyer and Diane Porter are recuperating at their homes.

Membership

No guests were present.

Program

Speakers and Refreshments are covered till the end of the year. Jennie and David Knies have volunteered to host the Christmas Party on December 16th. They live in Marbury, MD. Directions will be shared later.

Field Trips

- * Bob brought in sample of rock specimens from his two week trip out West.
- * Trip to Herkimer NY for Herkimer diamonds leaves October 5, so far 4 are going - see Bob.
- * Trip to Mt. Ida, Arkansas leaves October 7 for quartz crystals, so far 3 are going – see Dave.
- * Dave reported that a trip to Purse St. Park resulted in a find of a jaw of a crocodile with 3 teeth and bones exposed and other large shark teeth.
- * 13 people, 8 were new, attended the Rockville Quarry Trip from 9 – 2 pm on Sunday
The bottom of the quarry had been dug out 30' down and much of the rock went (sadly) to the crusher.
Lots of garnet, garnet crystals, clinozoisite and pyrite was found.
- * In Nov. Dave is planning a trip to the Vulcan Quarry in Manassas, VA.
- * 3 other far away trips were noted but there was no interest. Dave will resent some of the info. One was to Willis Mt. which has kayanite is located 60 miles west of Richmond, VA.
- * Mark your calendar for the 2nd Saturday Nov. 8, for the Richmond Swap (cash accepted also). This is a good event each year for local East Coast rock material. You can set up a table for yourself to swap if you like.

Newsletter

The newsletter will be out in Oct.

Old Business

There was discussion on continuing the Youth Program perhaps for home school students. The dates and times could change from the evening time previously done. Polly will check on the Home School's Rock Curriculum.

New Business

- * A reporter from the Washington Post is doing an article on activities for adults at nature centers and plans to feature our rock club on the October 3rd Weekender, perhaps on the cover. Because all of Bob's cabochon classes are filled, he will be offering an Open House in the Lapidary Lab on November 1st. The Post reporter will be attending. People will be welcome to learn more about our club, see how the equipment is operated, etc. Anyone interested in helping him on that day from 10 – 2pm., please contact Bob. Jewelry making demos are welcome!!

Continued on Page 6

Be “Patient” or “A Patient”

By Dave Lines

It was about 1:30 a.m. when the Doctor finally came in to look at my smashed finger. It had been almost five hours since I had checked in --- after all --- it was Saturday night and things were pretty hectic in the Emergency Room.

“What happened?,” the pleasant young doctor asked.

“Well ... I guess I was in too much of a hurry. We were on a field trip to collect rocks and minerals in a rock quarry and I decided to turn over a 300 pound rock to get some nice crystals. I could have used my six foot steel pry bar to turn the rock over, but it seemed like a waste of time to walk the 50 yards to get it. So I just rolled the big rock over with my hands. I was wearing the right safety stuff --- steel toed shoes, long jeans and heavy work gloves --- but it rolled right onto my finger! It really hurt, but I didn’t make a big deal. I took my glove off and my finger was bleeding, so I wrapped it up with several Band-Aids and put my glove back on. No one knew that I was hurt --- in fact, I used a big sledge hammer to get out some more crys-

tals. About 8 hours later after the drive home, my wife took one look at my swollen, blue-black finger and sent me straight to the Emergency Room.”

“When was your last tetanus immunization?,” he questioned.

“About 10 years ago,” I replied --- knowing that the nurse would soon be giving me another shot.

Doc then said, “I will check your x-rays and if nothing is broken, we will dress your finger and get you out of here. We will also give you an antibiotic, because we can’t take chances with infection.” I recalled that infection in bones can be deadly.

Later, some good news from the doctor --- no broken bones. But my earlier decision to not get the pry bar had been a costly mistake --- 5 hours at the Emergency Room, another hour at the drugstore, more hours of follow-up at my regular doctor and the orthopedic doctor --- not to mention pain, money and the inconvenience of having my hand in a bandage. Lesson learned --- be patient and take the extra time and effort to get and use the proper tools.

New Website

By Jessica Thomson

When you get the chance check out www.canadianminerals.net

This website is authored by Greg Hasler from Canada. He has been field collecting for the past 20 years and has begun selling high quality Canadian minerals. The website has amazing pictures of the minerals he is selling. When you click on the picture of a specific mineral or the location of a variety, you are taken to another page where there are multiple photos and details of each one. You’ll get the name, size, location and cost of that particular mineral. You can also find the contact and ordering information on the website.

Check it out! The photos are gorgeous and an amazing temptation!

Meet the Member

Submitted by Carole Raucheisen

Name: Bob Simmons

Area live in: Huntington

Place of birth: Washington, D. C.

Occupation: Retired

Marital status/spouse's name: Jan

Number and ages of children: 7 children, 22 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren

How became interested in rocks/minerals/fossils: Through Jan.

How long a collector: Twenty years, mostly collecting at their creek-side cabin in the Virginia mountains.

What you like to collect: Geodes.

Favorite find and how found: Crystals at Chestnut Ridge.

Favorite Rock Club experience: Going down in the mine at Moorefield.

Most memorable field trip: Going in a large group in the van to Sideling Hill, and then collecting afterward at Sandy Beach and the rock quarry.

What you have gained from the Rock Club: Meeting the people and making friendships. They are such a good group.

What you would still like to find/collect: Rubies in North Carolina.

Other interests: Travel.

Show List

By Ralph Gamba

October 26 Mining History Hike: **Soldier's Delight N.E.A.** 5100 Deer Park Road Owings Mills, MD **2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Join Volunteer Ranger and mining historian Johnny Johnsson on a Mining History Hike to the historic Choate chromium mine. The history of mining in Soldiers Delight will be explained supplemented by demonstrations of mining artifacts. Participants will have the opportunity to pan chrome sands in a restored buddle (kind of like panning for gold). This hands-on activity is great for families. The total hiking portion is no more than 2 miles over level, but uneven terrain, with interpretive stops along the way. Folks who can only walk a short distance can drive part of the way, park, and then make a short walk over uneven terrain to the Choate Mine area where most of the program is conducted. Meet at Visitor Center. Please call 410-833-5508 in advance to sign up or to obtain more information.

From the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) take I-795 to Franklin Blvd. West, turn right. Bear right at Church Road. Turn left at stop sign onto Berrymans Lane. Turn left at Deer park Road and go 2.5 miles to the Visitor Center entrance on right. From Liberty Road (Route 26) West go to Wards Chapel Road, turn left and follow Wards Chapel to stop sign. Turn right on Deer Park Road. Entrance is one mile on the right.

October 25--FAIRLESS HILLS, PENNSYLVANIA: Fluorescent mineral show, "Ultraviolation 2008"; Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA; First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd.; Sat. 9?4;

November 1 and 2: Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5 Tuscarora Lapidary Society Gemarama 2008. CFS, The School at Church Farm, Exton PA. North side of Business Rout 30, ½ Mile west of Frazer-Rt. 30 exit off of Route 202

November 8, 2008: Richmond Swap Meet, 9-3. Free tables to participants on a first come basis. Be there extra early (Between 7 and 8) for a table. Ridge Baptist Church Hall - 1515 East Ridge Road - Richmond, Virginia

November 22-23 FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA: 17th annual show; Northern Virginia Mineral Club; George Mason University, Student Union Bldg. II, Rte. 123 and Braddock Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, seniors (65+) and students (13-17) \$3, children (12 and under) and Scouts in uniform free; Web site: www.mineralclub.org

December 13, 10-4:30: Fall Festival of Fine Minerals, Fossils and Jewelry. Days Hotel, 9615 Deereco Rd., Timonium, MD. I-83, Exit 17, right on Padonia Rd. to Deereco.

...Minutes (Continued from page 3)

*Polly announced that 21 schools in Charles Co. would like to have some rock donations for the classrooms (hand held sizes are good). Please include which type the rock it is on the label (Igneous, Sedimentary or Metamorphic) with the name. The nature center is also looking for donations. Rocks need to be labeled and fit in the compartments of an egg carton. Montgomery Co. Rock & Mineral Club acquired an estate with rock samples and are offering some of the remainder to our club. These could be auctioned off to our members and/or used for the schools or nature center donations.

*Dave made a motion, that if the club raises money, that money will go to the EFMLS scholarship fund. Polly seconded the motion. This motion was passed.

*Anyone willing to talk about rocks and minerals to help teach youth from September 22 – October 2 , contact Dave Lines.

*A Nominating Committee was appointed from volunteers for 2009 Officers. The members are Bob Davidson, Chair, Polly Zimmerman, Dave Lines and Ralph Gamba. Elections will be held in November and new officers will start their term in January.

Program Report

By Jessica Thomson/Photos by Bob Davidson

Bob Davidson was September's presentation for the meeting's program and gave an interesting presentation on Electroforming.

Electroforming is the process of building a metal skin on a non-metallic surface. The science of the process is complex, but Bob showed how actually doing it was more basic.

The materials were basic: a rectifier or power source, metallic paint, a beaker, an anode of copper or stainless steel, and electroforming solution.

The process was, again, basic but time consuming. First, a metallic, water-based paint was painted onto the object (a leaf or piece of wood cut into specified shape). After the paint dries, attach the piece to the negative lead of the power source, attach the copper or stainless steel anode to the positive lead, and place both pieces into the beaker of electroforming solution. By turning on the power source to certain voltages for certain times, the metal from the anode will transfer to the metallic-painted object, plating the object with the metal.

After process is complete, clean and lacquer the object to keep the copper from oxidizing.

Additional stones and objects can be adhered to the piece to add detail and color.

Bob used a blurb from [The Complete Metalsmith](#) and other sources to get started on his venture. Due to his careful shopping, he only spent a couple hundred dollars to get into electroforming.

The program was interesting and the pieces Bob shared were unique and showed the versatility of the process. The shown in the pictures to the right was just as beautiful in person.

Thanks for sharing with us Bob!





ROCKTALK

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



We're on the web:
www.freewebs.com/smrmc/

Message from the Editor

Hello All!

Sorry it's been so long since you've seen a newsletter. It is truly amazing how life can get incredibly busy incredibly fast. Hopefully this will be the last time you have a large gap to deal with!

I am excited about all the new things coming into the newsletter. Please make sure that you keep them coming! It's always fun to see what new ideas everyone comes up with. The only request I have is that if you are doing any type of research for an article for the newsletter, please list the sources along with it. Just a general idea of book and author or website will suffice.

I have been contacted via email by a number of people either interested in buying or selling minerals and such. If you find an interesting website, like the Canadian Mineral one I wrote about this month, please write up a quick description for the newsletter so that others can check it out as well.

Like Lorna said in her message this month, one of the best ways to learn is to teach. As a teacher, I can completely relate to that statement. I have learned more by gathering information and editing articles sent to me for the newsletter to share with all of you. If you are interested in learning about something, either sign up for a program, or write up an article to share in the newsletter. Chances are, if you're interested in the topic, others are too!

Happy Fall and Happy Collecting!

PROGRAMS/ REFRESHMENTS

October	Program- Lorna Larson Refreshments- Polly Z and Jessica T
November	Program-Mt. Ida 08 Trip Presentation Refreshments- _____
December	HOLIDAY PARTY