

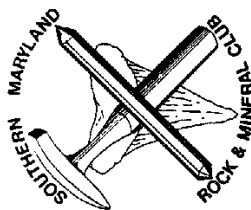
May 2009



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



# Message from the President

Well, I made it back from Mexico without contracting the H1N1 swine flu. That's the good news. The bad news is that because of the flu outbreak and subsequent widespread business closures, I had a hard time finding any rock specimens. All I could come up with was a piece of raw obsidian and what I was told were opals in some sort of strange (synthetic?) matrix. I have my doubts though, and will bring them to the next club meeting and let the experts have a look at them. The program for the next meeting is Minerals of Spain, so I will bring my Spanish dictionaries just in case.

For the last few months I have been getting newsletters from EFMLS and

AFMS. That's Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. I finally figured out that I am getting these mailings as the President of our club SMRMC, which is affiliated with both of these organizations - nobody told me! Anyway, they are interesting reading and I will bring them to the May club meeting if anyone wants to see them.

Several items need action though: the EFMLS is selling raffle tickets as a fundraiser and they sent me some to sell to club members. Also, as President of SMRMC I am a Director of EFLMS, and am supposed to attend their annual meeting to be held at their annual show October 16-18,

2009 in Bristol CT. At this point in time, I do not plan to attend this meeting, but if any club members are thinking about going, get with me so I can appoint you as an alternate. This is more a reminder to me to bring this up as new business at the next club meeting. Hopefully some of the old-timers can clarify what needs to be done.

See you Tuesday night at the meeting.

Alex Schuman

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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.

# State Minerals

By Jessica Thomson

After searching for quite a while, it was surprising to see that not all states have an official mineral. Virginia and Arizona don't, which wasn't expected. Some states are still working on legislation to add an official state mineral to their list. There are state fossils, stones, rocks, and gemstones for most states. Here are the state minerals:

1. Alabama - Hematite (Red iron ore)
2. Alaska - Gold
3. Arkansas - Quartz crystal
4. California - Native gold
5. Colorado - Rhodochrosite
6. Connecticut - Garnet
7. Delaware - Sillimanite
8. Georgia - Staurolite
9. Illinois - Calcium flouride (Flourite)
10. Kentucky - Coal
11. Louisiana - Agate
12. Maine - Tourmaline
13. Massachusetts - Babingtonite
14. Missouri - Galena
15. Montana - Agate
16. Nevada - Silver
17. New Hampshire - Beryl
18. Rhode Island - Bowenite
19. South Dakota - Rose quartz
20. Utah - Copper
21. Vermont - Talc
22. Wisconsin- Galena (Lead sulfide)

Sources:

[http://www.netstate.com/states/tables/state\\_rocks\\_all.htm](http://www.netstate.com/states/tables/state_rocks_all.htm)

[http://members.tripod.com/earthtreasures/index\\_\\_6.htm](http://members.tripod.com/earthtreasures/index__6.htm)

[http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors\\_corner/offmin.htm](http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/offmin.htm)

## SMRMC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:  
Alex Schuman

VICE PRESIDENT (membership):  
Ralph Gamba

VICE PRESIDENT (Programs):  
Larry O'Callaghan

Co-VICE PRESIDENTS  
(Field Trips):

Dave Lines  
(301) 934-9396

Bob Davidson

SECRETARY:  
Polly Zimmerman

LIAISON/Youth Coordinator:  
Michael Patterson  
(301) 297-4575  
michael.patterson  
@pgparks.com

EDITOR  
Jessica Thomson  
rocktalkeditor@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER  
Bob Davidson

EFMLS Representative  
Dee Tinsley  
flydeetin@gmail.com

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

# Minutes...

Polly Zimmerman

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The April 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club was called to order at 7:10 pm.

MINUTES: The minutes were approved as printed after corrections.

TREASURER: Amounts were discussed.

MEMBERSHIP: There are 69 members. New phone/email list was distributed.

PROGRAMS: There are still several meetings open to programs.  
Thanks to Carol and Al for the delicious treats.

## FIELDTRIPS:

- Morefield Mine Sat. May 23<sup>rd</sup>. \$12.00 **only** open to members. Contact Dave Lines.
- Herkimer May 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Contact Bob Davidson
- Lake Anna Swap Meet June tbd. / gold panning

EDITOR: Please send in any news/articles to Jessica.

WEB MASTER: Club received a donation of rocks and equipment that has been put on our website [RocksForSale.webs.com](http://RocksForSale.webs.com) . Most of the equipment has sold and the proceeds will purchase odorless oil for the saws and polishing wheels. Contact Bob Davidson for more information.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Rock Show, a new location is needed for 2010. Tabled to committee.
- 276 attendees, 232 paid admission. A list will be typed from the information cards.  
Jessica and Polly volunteered to help.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion of ages for Rock Club membership to standardize with Nature Center. No Decision.

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## Minutes...continued

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- KIDS Program was tabled until Fall and completion of our work area.
- Rock/Mineral work area is being moved to new location in the basement. Club members needed to help in the move. Bob will coordinate volunteers.

Meeting adjourned for snacks at 7:45pm.

Program followed "History of Gold Panning in Maryland and Virginia"

Thank You - Walter A. Goetz

## Upcoming Shows and Events

By Ralph Gamba

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- May 16-17 Leesport PA World of Gems and Minerals. Berks Mineralogical Society Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall. Rte 61. Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5.
- May 23 Towson, MD Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Show, Ruhl Armory, Towson, MD 10 AM to 4 PM. Free Admission. I-695 exit 26 – York road South, across from car dealer and funeral home
- August 14-16 Lebanon, PA Gem Miner's Jubilee. Lebanon Expo Center, Rte 62 and Rocherty Rd. Fri 10-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4 Admission \$4.00.
- September 26 – 27 Howard County Fairgrounds Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show. Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM Route 144, West Friendship, MD adults \$5.00
- September 26 & 27, Morgantown, WV Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. West Virginia Geological Research Center at Mont Chateau. Mont Chateau Road, Cheat Lake I-68 East, Exit 10 Saturday 10 Am to 6 PM, Sunday 11 AM to 5 PM
- November 7 – 8 Gemarama 2009. Tuscarora Lapidary Society. CFS, The School at Church Farm, Exton, PA. North side of Business Route 30, ½ mile west of Frazer-Rt 30 exit of Route 202 Saturday 10 AM-6 PM, Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM \$6 admission
- December 12 – Fall Festival of Fine Minerals 10 AM to 4 PM. Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Timonium, MD. I-83, exit 17

If anyone has information on any other local shows or rock events, contact Ralph Gamba at [rgamba@verizon.net](mailto:rgamba@verizon.net), so they can be included in this list.

# Herkimer Diamond Mine-Spring Break 2009

By Jaret Williams, Age 9 1/2

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Over my Spring Break, my family visited New York State. On our way home from Lake Placid, we stopped at the Ace of Diamond Mine in Herkimer, NY. We arrived around 10:30, parked, then went to the gift shop, which was also the check in place. We had a quick look around, then got checked in. The lady told us where we could and couldn't go. Then we got all our things and started mining.

The mine was basically a big pile of Dolostone rock, and we had to try to break each rock open looking for little or big shafts of either Herkimer Diamonds or Calcite Crystals or even both. Our dad got the big 15 pound sledge hammer. I used the little five-pounder and my brother got the little rock hammer. My brother didn't really help too much. He ran around looking for little Herkimer Diamonds on the ground or climbed the big rocks or just watched. Our mom stayed down at the truck, but came up to where we were to see if we found any big finds. She usually would go back to the truck carrying a bucket full of rocks. Our mom said we had to leave by 1:30 if we wanted to get home before midnight. So this time we listened to her.

We really stopped mining at 1:25 to go up to the gift shop. It took us a very long time to find a rock in the gift shop so when we were about to leave I quickly grabbed some Arkansas Black Quartz to buy. We left the Ace of Diamond Mine happy and satisfied with lots of great Herkimer Diamond specimens to add to my collection!





# Rockville Quarry —97 Degrees in April

By Dave Lines

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On Sunday April 26, 2009, we held a field trip at the Hunting Hill (Rockville) Quarry in Montgomery County, Maryland. We had 20 slots, but due to some coordination errors, we ended up with 23 folks as follows. First, from the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club (SMRMC): Dave Lines (trip leader), Bob Davidson, Ralph Gamba, Paul and Linda Holden, Harry and Tina League, Christine Proctor, James White, Tom and Joy Piscitelli, and Gary and Cindy Lohman.



And second, from the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society (RGMS): Harry Hobbs (Richmond trip leader), Pete McQuery, Lynn Taylor, Jim Parnell, Robert Sherman, Pam Bryant, Earl Guertin, Bob Williams, and John and Sherry Boyer.

We meet at the quarry office parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and it was 74 degrees Fahrenheit --- already 10 degrees above the average daily high! After reading, signing and turning in the liability waivers, we were given a thorough safety brief by the Quarry Superintendent, Jeff Greene --- wear safety gear, stay away from the high walls, drink plenty of water, use sunscreen, check out with the trip leaders and him. All of the folks had been in a quarry before, but it was the first

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# Rockville Quarry ---97 Degrees in April

CONTINUED

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time in this particular quarry for a few. By 9:10 we were heading into the quarry in a caravan of vehicles following Jeff.

Each time I see this place, it amazes me. That first panorama of the huge hole in the ground --- probably well over 100 acres and 400 feet deep --- is a bit overwhelming. And the drive down the wide gravel road into this thing is steep. And we drove on the left side of the road. Our anticipation mounted during the slow 15 mph speed limit trip into the quarry. We could see a lot of new excavation had occurred since our last field trip in November.



*We all parked on the level just above the bottom ramp --- and quickly spread out to "save specimens from the crusher". The surface of most of the rocks was clean due to the recent abundant rains --- this made for easier looking. Soon, we started finding specimens of massive green chrome diopside, rodingnite (a combo of massive grossular garnet and chrome diopside), massive calcite (a great indicator of pockets of other crystals like grossular garnets), small grossular garnet crystals --- the best were clear and orange-red. Some folks could not resist taking a few of the larger (and beautiful) green and red rocks of rodingnite home for the display outside in a rock garden. Quite a bit of the metallic, golden colored coalingite was found. Also, several discoveries of pea green colored crystals (hexagonal) of clinozoisite were located in grayish calcite --- again, the best ones were clear. I saw several specimens of small pyrite (or maybe chalcopyrite) crystals --- the best ones were in a black schist. Various specimens of calcite crystals in several crystal structures were found. A really beautiful specimen of clear gray-blue-green of chrome diopside crystals in white calcite and tan colored massive grossular garnet was found --- very nice. Also, many unidentified-as-yet specimens of small micros in vugs and pockets. And we left plenty of garnet and other crystals still attached to gigantic boulders --- with no way to remove them intact.*

By 2 p.m., everyone left --- all safe and sound --- and although it had seemed very hot in the intense sunshine --- the temperature at the bottom of the quarry, according to my van thermometer, was only 76 degrees --- but at the top, on our drive out, it was 97.



# 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

Well, summertime is creeping ever closer to us and it is finally full-swing into field trip season! I am enjoying the reports coming in from various sources and hope to continue to get some great reads! If you go on a trip on your own, you can write a report too; thanks to Jaret for submitting his Herkimer report!

This July I will be traveling to Alaska. I will actually be there during the time I normally put out the newsletter, so I am going to put together a June-July issue again this summer. In August I will fill in everything from July that couldn't be submitted so it should be extra-

long and interesting...hint-hint! I'm even hoping to be able to put in something from my trip. The rockhound in me is itching to get to a gold mine! We shall see.

I am still hoping that there will be pieces from the newsletter challenges from the last few months. So far, you've been challenged to submit poetry, websites or magazine descriptions, drawings, and rocking tips. This month I'd like to add a new challenge: Jokes! Do you have a funny or cute rock/mineral joke? Share it with the rest of us...kids jokes are welcome as well! We all love a good laugh!

### PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS

| Month     | Programs/Refreshments   |
|-----------|---|
| May       | <u>Program:</u> Minerals of Spain<br><u>Refreshments:</u> Bob and Jan Simmons                   |
| June      | <u>Program:</u> Stone Carving<br><u>Refreshments:</u>   |
| July      | <u>Program:</u> _____<br><u>Refreshments:</u> Ralph Gamba                                       |
| August    | Annual Auction and Potluck  |
| September | <u>Program:</u> Ralph Gamba<br><u>Refreshments:</u> Lorna and Mel Larson                        |
| October   | <u>Program:</u> Geology of Maryland<br><u>Refreshments:</u> Polly Zimmerman and Jessica Thomson |
| November  | <u>Program:</u> _____<br><u>Refreshments:</u> Paul and Linda Holden                             |