

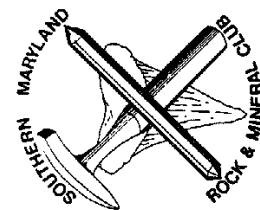
May 2010



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

Harry and I went on a trip to New Mexico April 18-24, 2010. We were captivated by the spectacular scenery and impressive rock formations. We stayed predominantly in the northwest section of the state. We flew into Albuquerque and then drove 76 miles south to Socorro. In Socorro we visited the Mineral Museum at the New Mexico Tech campus and met with the curator Virgil Lueth. The museum has an outstanding display of minerals from New Mexico and all over the world- a definite "must see" if you ever go to Socorro. We also met three rockhounds from the Albuquerque club who gave us some very good "hunting tips" for the area.

Our first rock hunting trip took us 26 miles west to the North Graphic and Nitt mines in Magdalena. The mines are owned by Bills Rock Shop which charges a \$5.00 fee per

person for the day. We collected Smithsonite, Malachite/Azurite, Chrysacolla, Pyrite, Hematite, Iron ore, Calcite crystals, and Barite.

The next day we went to Socorro Fossil area on BLM land 12 miles northeast of Socorro. There we collected a few marine fossils and took many pictures of the blooming cactus. Then we went to Chavez Canyon (BLM land 20 miles south) and collected Chalcedony roses, Quartz crystal clusters, Alabaster, Opalite, and Garnet.

Red Cloud Mine turned out to be quite an endeavor. It is located about 65 miles northeast of Socorro in the Cibola National Forest. There we collected Flourite, Wulfenite, Chrysacolla, Vanadinite, and Calcite crystals while keeping an eye out for bears. From there we headed south and stopped by the Valley of Fires Recreation area.

Ancient volcanoes left their mark for 50 miles with black, swirls of "crazy rock" everywhere. Then we stopped by the Blanchard Rock Shop in Bingham. They have a fantastic inventory of minerals and a great mine to hunt Flourite and Amethyst. There you can pay \$10.00 to collect above ground- or \$350 or so to mine underground for beautiful Flourite cube clusters.

Our last hunting day was spent in Grants (100 miles northwest of Socorro). We went to the Mining Museum which had a very realistic mock-up of a working Uranium mine. Then we went on to Grants Ridge (10 miles east of town) in the Cibola National Forest to collect Petrified wood, Obsidian, and Rhyolite with tiny Topaz and Garnet clusters.

New Mexico proved to be a very "rockhound friendly" state with plenty of BLM and Forest land to collect on!

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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.

EFMLS News

Submitted by Jessica Thomson



In this issue:

A copy of the minutes from the Board of Directors annual meeting from March is included.

Wildacres Workshop for the fall still has vacancies! The spring session sold out and they were not able to get everyone from the waiting list. If you are interested in attending this fall, sign up now!

For more information go to www.amfed.org/efmls



In this issue:

The AFMS Code of Ethics is given.

If you find yourself out west over Memorial weekend, there is an all federation field trip to the Blue Forest Area.

Reminder that the AFMS Convention is June 18-20

There is an article about safety in spring. Remember to take your Benedryl with you!

For more information go to www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

May 29 2010. – Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Show, Ruhl Armory, Towson, MD 10 AM – 4 PM Free Admission. Take Baltimore Beltway (I-695) to Exit 26 – York Road South. Ruhl Armory is on the east side of York road just inside of I-695.

June 11 2010. - Rock and mineral auction Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society, Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD 7:30 PM

June 13 2010. – Lake Anna Region IV Picnic and Rock Swap. Lake Anna State Park, VA

June 16 2010.— McLean, VA Show: Rings and Things Beads Tour, Best Western, Tysons Westpark Hotel. 8401 Westpark Drive. 12-4 www.rings-things.com

June 17 2010. – Timonium MD Show: Rings and Things Beads Tour, Holiday Inn, Timonium 9615 Derreco Rd. www.rings-things.com

August 7 – 8 2010. - The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Washington D. C Inc. 60th Annual Gem and Mineral Show and Sale. Stone Ridge School, 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission Adults \$6.00, Senior Citizens \$5.00, children under 16 free with paid admission. Web Site: www.GLMSDC.COM.

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

April Minutes

By Polly Zimmerman

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

Dave Lines called the meeting to order.

Letter of resignation was read from Alex. We will all miss his contribution to the club. According to the order of succession Tina will take over as president.

New members were introduced; Rick McGruder and Sallie Rush. Welcome!

Secretary: Minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer: No Changes to the balance.

Programs: Ralph will be our speaker this evening with a program on Gold Mining in GA. Gary will present the next meeting's program.

Membership: Tina passed around a membership list for everyone to check their information.

Trips: There were 4 trips this month. Trips to Vulcan Quarry, Nat. Limestone Quarry, Dobbins Prospect, and Morefield Mine brought lots of samples for all to see.

Oregon Ridge State Park program on primitive technology is available on the 1st and 2nd of May. Many activities are planned.

Up coming trips:

Lake Anna, VA Gold Club Memorial weekend

Willis Mt. for kyanite

Herkimer May 9th -14th.

Editor: There will be a combined newsletter for July/August.

Webmaster: Check out the field trip reports. Bob received a letter of thanks for help in starting a new rock club. GREAT Bob!!!!

Old Business: All saws are working in the workroom. One needs a new pulley and will be replaced soon. Need to get a written confirmation for next years rock show Jan.19th 2011.

New Business: Lapidary room will have fees. \$3-\$4.00 will be charged for use of equipment. Call for a reservation if you want to use the equipment.

Bob will make a library presentation Sept.27th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. for snacks and program.

Program: Ralph showed a video about gold in Georgia and the rise and fall of mining in Dahlonega.

The Other National Limestone Quarry Trip

By Jim White

On April 3rd I picked up Tom Piscetelli , the only other member of SMRMC who was going to the National Limestone Quarry field trip, at his home in Parkville and we headed for Middleburg PA. Our trip was uneventful except for a turkey which flew at my windshield, forcing me to brake hard, missing it by inches.

This was to be a combined trip; several clubs were invited including the Northern Virginia and Richmond clubs. I had traced our route out on Google Earth, so I knew there was no quarry at the spot that the directions took us to. I thought this was a little odd. But there was a quarry visible about a mile away on the other side of the road, so assumed that was our ultimate destination. We were there at 9:00, a little early, the scheduled time was 9:30, so I wasn't concerned when no other rockhounds were present. What was disconcerting was that the name of the road was wrong (what was supposed to be Quarry Rd. was Chestnut Hill Rd). When no one else had appeared by 9:20 I became somewhat concerned. So we decided to ride over to the quarry, concluding that eventually everyone would end up there sooner or later. We pulled into the quarry office parking lot and were encouraged by a vehicle with Virginia license plates. The owner of the vehicle appeared within a minute or two and introduced himself as Jack Donner, a member of the Northern Virginia club. While we were talking to him other cars began to arrive with other members of the N. Va. Club, and one from the Richmond club. Our trip leader, John (Ted) Carver, however was not among them, there was also no quarry rep. We introduced ourselves and talked rocks. When 10:00 came and went we became a little concerned. A call was made to Ted, who explained that he was running late and had been in contact with the quarry rep, so our fears were allayed and we occupied ourselves by taking photos of the rocks that were on display in the office yard and by searching through the piles of crushed stone for small flecks of fluorite mixed in with the calcite.

When it got to be after 10:30 we were beginning to get a little antsy, so another call was made to Ted. I was only able to hear half of this somewhat surrealistic exchange. "Ted, where are you?" ...pause, "no, you're not at the quarry, we're at the quarry" ...pause, "but we're at the quarry and you're not here". Debate on this philosophical conundrum was soon abandoned for a more productive dialogue when Ted revealed that there was ANOTHER National Limestone quarry approximately 8 miles away. So we obtained directions and caravanned to the other quarry. It was after 11:00 when we arrived at the 2nd site and our trip had been scheduled to end at "one-ish", so I was not too optimistic about our prospects at this point. But we met with Ted and some other rockhounds (ten of us in all, we had lost Jack Donner somewhere) went to the office trailer for the usual safety briefing and were surprised to learn that we were meeting the quarry OWNER, Eric Stahl. He took us into his office and had us sign his register (not the usual waiver). He explained that he enjoys sharing this resource with rockhounds, but that the first time there's a law suit, the place will be closed. After we had signed the register he showed us some very impressive specimens of the material we would be searching for, Wavelite, Strontianite, Calcite, and a new and rare find, Turquoise! This last is more of a mineralogical curiosity than a lapidary material. It's a VERY pale green.

Before we started into the quarry Mr.Stahl wanted us to listen to his testimony. He believes it is his duty to spread the word of Jesus. He gave us a brief explanation of his theology and then a few last minute instructions", take a bucket of water to the Wavelite site, one group will go in and complain that they couldn't find Wavelite, and the next group to go in after a rain will find Wavelite every where, dug up and left behind by the previous group who were unable to recognize it when it was dirty". So we filled buckets with water and headed for the Wavelite site, which is found in a road cut around the back rim of the quarry, turn left when

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

The Other National Limestone Quarry Trip

CONTINUED

you enter the pit, and left again at the top of the hill. The Wavelite site also contains some fossils and I found a brachiopod before I found a piece of Wavelite. It must have rained since the last group was in, because there was Wavelite all over the place, all we had to do was pick it up. Most people were splitting seams in the rocks looking for specimens, but I opted to take promising rocks home and open them later (too much hammering at one time aggravates my tendonitis) I had driven my truck so I had plenty of room. It wasn't needed otherwise, the road was passable in a passenger car. The specimens we were finding had very few whole "bubbles," and most of them were small (most smaller than BBs, the largest I saw was smaller than a pea), the broken ones were larger, but all smaller than a dime. Mr. Stahl had told us that a group of 12 year old girls had been in a week or two before and one of them had found a specimen with two bubbles that were the size of a quarter and on the other side two more that were the size of half dollars. If they hadn't been broken he estimated it would have been worth \$1,000. After a while we all had a fair amount of Wavelite, and a few fossils (Ted found a snail), so we decided it was time to see if we could find some Strontianite and Calcite. There was no good place to turn around, so with varying degrees of skill, we backed out of the road, emerged relatively unscathed, and headed into the pit. Mr. Stahl had had a long line of rock laid out in the middle of the pit for our convenience and safety. Calcite was fairly plentiful, including some massive material with a pastel pink color. Strontianite was very scarce. One member of the N.Va. club found a small piece. The real find was a boulder with purple Flourite which Ted spent quite a long time hammering on. That appeared to be the only Flourite in there, because no one else found any. Ted was more than willing to trade for other material but unfortunately I hadn't found anything worth trading for.

It had gotten to be about 3:30 by this time (I forgot to mention that Mr. Stahl had told us to stay as late as we wanted). So we decided, if we wanted to get to the Suedeburg fossil site, we better get going. We stopped for lunch in Duncannon, then proceeded to the Suedeburg site. The photos of material from this site that Tom had downloaded off the net were stunning: intense multi colored trilobites in red, green, yellows and even some shades of blue. We found the site without any trouble. The fossils proved to be another matter. We dug around for a little while finding nothing but rather mundane examples of brachiopods, but eventually discovered some better material at the other end of the hill. Tom found a snail, and some of the members of the N.Va. club found pieces of trilobites. I wasn't as lucky.

By 6:30 Tom and I had had enough and headed home. The spectacular multi colored fossils had eluded us. Well, maybe another day.



The Lake Anna Experience

Submitted by Dave Lines

If you haven't done this yet, you are in for a very pleasant surprise. You *need* to.

Each year in June (***Sunday, June 13th this year***), rockhounds from Eastern Federation Clubs in our area (VA, MD and DC) gather at Lake Anna State Park to enjoy a day together. The value of this opportunity cannot be over-stated.

Did you know that everyone can take home FREE rocks (and minerals...and fossils) from the "Treasure Box"? I have truly found treasure there... like a 2 pound hunk of *blue flash moonstone* from the old Rutherford Mine. Everyone is asked to bring some of their "extra" rocks/minerals/fossils to leave in the Treasure Box --- of course, you need to label it because whoever gets your give-away would love to know what it is and where it came from. Nothing fancy --- just a handwritten note on a torn scrap of paper can be a fine. You don't need fancy mineral boxes either --- any old box or even a zip lock bag will work. Remember: "*One rockhound's trash is another's treasure.*"

Did you know that FREE door prizes are given away? Did you know that KIDS get their own door prizes which are drawn separately? If you (and every attendee) donate a door prize, then there will be even more door prizes to give away.

Swapping (NO SELLING) starts at 10 a.m. (even earlier, if you can get there). Just take a couple of flats of labeled rocks and fossils from your field trips. When you arrive, spread out your rocks on one of the picnic tables, or on your own card table, or even on an old blanket on the ground and bring a fold-up chair to sit in. I'll bet that you will have the only Herkimer diamonds there. Some of those sharks teeth you have been picking up all these years will trade like hotcakes! And those cool crystals you found in Utah or Colorado are sure to be great to trade with. Amazonite from the Morefield Mine will work, too. Pencil in a reasonable price in the upper corner of your label and go look at what everyone else has. You are bound to find something that you like. Then ask the person to come look at your stuff and see if you can work out a swap. It is FUN. I have even seen little *kids go get free rocks from the Treasure Box and then go swap* for better stuff.

You should try to meet folks from other clubs. Many of the attendees have years and years of rock collecting experience. Ask them about their favorite rock and where they got it. Ask them to tell you about finding amethyst crystals at Charlotte Court House, VA, or digging for williamsite at the State Line Pits in MD, or finding big shark's teeth in Aurora, NC. Some of these folks will talk your ear off --- and you might learn something in the process --- and you will make some new friends. I have learned about many of the places we now go on field trips by just talking with other rock hounds there.

And FREE food for everyone --- *all you can eat*. Bring your own drinks and a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Hot dogs, hamburgers and buns will be provided by Region IV. The Lake Anna Swap and Picnic lasts until 4 pm. Please join us!!

Message from the Editor

By Jessica Thomson

It seems that field trip season is in full swing. It is so exciting to read about all the adventures different members are having and well as what they've found. I am finding that it is difficult to include everything each month with the limited amount of space the newsletter contains. I don't want to expand the newsletter because I don't want it to become too cumbersome to read.

That being said, I'd like to try something new.

One Day Trips: Keep writing limited to no more than one page in length
(including some space for pictures)

Two Days and longer: Keep writing limited to no more than two pages in length
(including some space for pictures)

There are some already doing this and it will ensure that everyone's articles can be included within a month or so of them occurring. Just as a guideline, all documents are formatted in size 12 (maybe 11 if I need a little more space).

I am not saying that you can't write a longer article, but if you can try to keep down the length, we have a greater chance of fitting everything in!

Also, a reminder, I will be combining July and August into one issue, so the September issue may be a little longer to accommodate the trips that took place during that time.

Vulcan Quarry, Manassas, VA. March 27, 2010

By Bob Davidson



It was a cold morning when the ten of us from our club arrive at the Vulcan Quarry. From left to right are Teri, Mike, Paul, Tom, Fotini, Bob, Linda, Polly and Jim. Ralph took the picture. We were the first to get there followed by the Roanoke Club and the Northern Virginia Club who arranged the trip.

The trip leader, Ted Carver, explained the rules for mine emphasizing the importance of safety equipment and keeping at least 10 feet away from the walls. He also explained where the most recent blasting had occurred. After stopping at the new area and not finding anything we moved to the bottom of the quarry where we found calcite, both massive and crystals. From there we moved up to the 220 foot level where Polly found an outstanding chalcopryrite specimen. Near the end of the trip we moved up to the 80 foot level and got some nice specimens of stilbite or, as some people called it, laumonite. We left the quarry around noon.

(Bob found this stilbite specimen.

It' measures 2 1/2" across and 1 3/4" high)





ROCKTALK

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

Next Meeting
May 25, 2010
7:00 PM

We're on the web:

SMRMC.org

May's
Refreshments/
Programs

Refreshments:

Chris, Tina & Mary

Program:

Gary Lohman: Fluorescents

ATTENTION!!!

Goldfest (previously scheduled on May 29-31) has been *cancelled*."

A Gold Panning Field Trip will be conducted at Contrary Creek, Mineral, VA from 3 to 5 p.m.; Sunday June 13th following the Lake Anna Swap. Sign up at the May meeting or email Dave Lines