

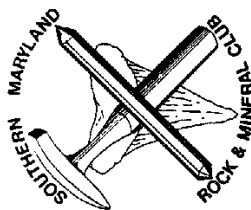
February 2011



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

Happy New Year everyone! 2011 is here and it's time to renew your memberships- we have several field trips planned and in the works; so don't miss out!

I'd like to welcome our new officers for this year: 1st Vice President (Membership) - Christine Proctor, 3rd Vice President (Programs)- Linda Holden, and Secretary- Cheryl Reese. I'd like to welcome back our returning officers: 2nd Vice President (Field Trips) and Treasurer- Dave Lines, Editor- Jessica Dixon, WebMaster- Bob Davidson, and Liaison/Youth Coordinator- Michael Patterson. Thank you all for volunteering your service to the club.

Next month is our 21st Annual Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

to be held at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro on Saturday, February 19th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

I hope everyone is able to attend. The show committee has been working hard to finalize the event plans to make this the biggest and best show ever.

January and February are not the best months for Rockhounds to venture into the field for collecting, but they're great for sorting through all of the "treasures" found during the past season. Take this opportunity to label your specimens and do some research to identify "mystery rocks". The field trip to JMU on January 29 provided some lab time for just this purpose.

Winter is also a good time to do some research for future field trips. Dig up a little history on a mineral rich area you would like to visit and see if there is any potential to hunt that area. We're always looking for new areas to explore. If you have any specimens that need to be "put to the saw", this is a great time to do so. This is also prime jewelry making season- if you're stuck indoors- what better time to get those projects done, or take a class on a specific technique...and before you know it- Spring will be here and you'll be back outside collecting new specimens to organize next winter.

Inside this issue:

Message from the President	1
EFMLS/AFMS News & Upcoming Shows/Events	2
Minutes	3
JMU Field Trip	4-5
Meet the Member/Message from Editor	6-7
Tumbling Contest/SMRMC Show	8-9
Upcoming Program	10

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/AFMS News

Submitted by Jessica Dixon



In the February issue of the EFMLS newsletter, there are quite a few articles worth checking out. The safety reminder is always a good one to read, there are plugs for the endowment fund as well as the committee lobbying for commemorative birthstone stamps, and there is an extensive listing of this year's WildAcres Spring and Fall classes.

For more information on any of these articles, visit www.amfed.org/efmls



The AFMS newsletter includes a check on current legislation and what the rockhound community needs to work towards protecting. Unless we fight for access, we will lose large amounts of land for collecting.

There is also a great article on safer collecting that includes some tips for communicating that are easy to overlook when going on a rock trip— worth a read!

There are also some great little pieces of Rockhounds of the year. Is there someone we can think about nominating from our club? Check out the current pieces for some ideas!

For more information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

February 19, 2011: The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club 21st Annual Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show. 10 AM – 5 PM. The Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, MD

March 5 - 6, 2011: The Delaware Mineralogical Society 48th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Delaware Technical & Community College, Churchmans Raod (Rt. 58) Newark (Stanton) DE @ Exit 4B, I-95. Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM, Sunday 11 AM to 5 PM. Adults \$6, Seniors \$5, Juniors (12-16) \$4, Children Free. www.delminsociety.net

March 19-20, 2011: Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD. 47th Annual Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show. Montgomery County Fairgrounds. 16 Chestnut St, Gaithersburg, MD Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM. Adult \$6, Under 12 Free

March 26 & 27, 2011: Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club 33rd Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Shalom Christian Academy, 126 Social Island Road, Chambersburg, PA I-81 to exit 10, rt. 914 to Rt. 11. Turn right (north .p mile, turn left onto Social Island Road., school on left. Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM Adults \$4, Children under 12 free with adult.

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

SMRMC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Tina League

VICE PRESIDENT (membership):
Christine Proctor

VICE PRESIDENT (Programs):
Linda Holden

VICE PRESIDENT (Field Trips):
Dave Lines
(301) 934-9396

SECRETARY:
Cheryl Reese

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

TREASURER
Dave Lines

EDITOR
Jessica Dixon
rocktalkeditor@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER
Bob Davidson

EFMLS Representative
Dee Tinsley
flydeetin@gmail.com

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

January Minutes

By Cheryl Reese

DATE: JANUARY 25TH, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Guests were welcomed and introduced, there were 7 guests, some came via the cabochon class and others the website.

TREASURER: \$25.00 reimbursed to Polly for the Eastern Federation Rock show donation that they requested.

MEMBERSHIP: Remember to renew your memberships. There are currently 65 members in good standing.

PROGRAMS: Please see Linda Holden if you would like to schedule a program. Tonight's program was *Opal Fever*, presented by Bob Davidson

FIELD TRIPS: No trips scheduled for February with the Rock Show being on February 19th from 10-5.

Two possible field trips in March, with one being to Chestnut Ridge

EDITOR: A motion was made and seconded after a discussion to have 8 newsletters, with Jessica deciding which months they will be. Most likely Dec, Jan, Jul and Aug will be cut.

WEBMASTER: Nothing new, still getting a lot of hits on the site

LIAISON: Mike would like a fluorescent rock display at the show. Gary has volunteered his services for that.

Mike wanted any ideas for rock related crafts or activities for children also for the show.

He wanted volunteers for the admissions and door prizes, which Polly, Jessica and Larry had already volunteered for. Demos are being provided by Dave (gold panning) and Lorna (wire wrapping and bead stringing).

Contract has been signed for the show and there are 85 tables rented. Plenty of advertising in papers, websites and flyers being sent around by club members.

Mike is still trying to get us official access to Lamberton Creek in Silver Spring.

OLD BUSINESS: Paul got information on the lobbying group being formed by AFMS. Three options exist: Single Membership \$25.00, Club Membership \$50.00, or third option, do nothing. This has to do with Federal lands being turned over to BLM and restricting our clubs from rockhounding on federal land. More info available at amlands.org

NEW BUSINESS: Dave has info on 2 Rock Pow-Wows in Oregon this summer.

ADJOURNED: at 8:00 pm for refreshments provided by Christine and Mary

James Madison University (JMU) Field Trip January 29, 2011

By Dave Lines

Our first field trip of the year is always FUN. The rockhound in us is eager to get out. Snow and ice covering the ground did not matter at this location because the rocks and minerals are *inside* where it is warm and toasty.



As the result of several weeks of planning (and the good Lord providing excellent traveling weather), seventeen* (17) club members of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club all converged at the designated parking lot at JMU at the early hour of 7:45 a.m. --- *sort of...* Some had arrived earlier and found a warm hallway adjacent to the parking lot to gather in. Some could not find us and called me for help --- (that's okay). Some were just late. And some were already in the Geology Lab "shopping" through the 10 flats of mineral specimens that Dr. Lance Kearns had put out for us to purchase for a "donation".

Just before 8:00 a.m., most of us walked into the building together and down into the geology lab. The shopping immediately became fast and furious --- especially since 30 members of the Shenandoah Valley club also arrived at the same time. Whoa --- talk about "competitive shopping". If you picked up a specimen, you better decide immediately, because if you put it back down, someone else grabbed it. Hesitate and your choices were lost! It got so bad that people tried to take specimens that I had already selected out of my personal flat that I was holding! I noticed several books that were available --- but I never reached them before they were gone. [I had brought several empty beer flats with me with my name printed all over them in black marker ("This belongs to Dave Lines"). Those empty flats disappeared and I never even saw who took them. Next year, maybe I should spray paint my empty flats a *hot pink color* to (hopefully) prevent *unauthorized use*!] Dr. Kearns even had some equipment, typed handouts and some textbooks on one end of a counter and people were taking that stuff! Whoa Nelly! I would say that some people were a bit out of control. Anyway the entire offering of mineral specimens were gone in only a few minutes.

Several people asked me about what they should donate for a specimen. I told them to be generous since the Mineral Museum would be the only beneficiary. The folks who asked me did donate a healthy amount. I hope everyone was generous.

Later in the morning while talking with Dr. Kearns, he said that there had been two substantial donations from the estates of Dr. Mitchell (University of Virginia geology professor) and Dr. Mitchell's father. Both had stipulated that their gifts were to be used *only* for the purchase of *Virginia* minerals. This requirement has limited the ability of Dr. Kearns to add specimens to the Mineral Museum from elsewhere --- thus the "sale" of mineral specimens to raise money becomes an important source of income for the museum.



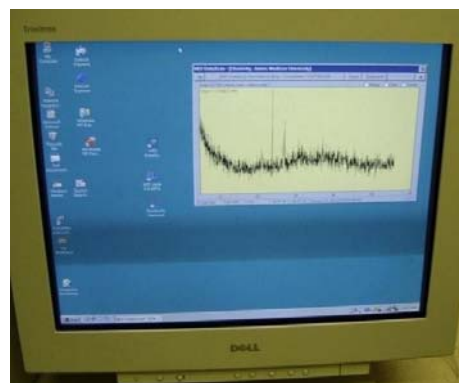
...CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

JMU Field Trip

CONTINUED

I should mention that upon our arrival, we were welcomed with hot coffee and those huge fresh muffins --- courtesy of Dr. Kearns. After things calmed down from the shopping frenzy, Dr. Kearns invited all of us to visit the Mineral Museum. It is always changing and improving. The quality and display of the specimens is absolutely first class --- beautiful, aesthetically pleasing, professionally labeled, stunning, just gorgeous. Each time I see this collection, I see it differently --- so much to learn. I asked Dr. Kearns about the shiny silvery-black sphere of rockbridgeite --- he said he collected it himself at the Dixie Mine near Vesuvius, Virginia. (Aside: we are currently planning a joint club trip to the Dixie on March 12th.) The Mineral Museum is well worth seeing again and again.

Following the museum visit, we trickled back into the geology lab where Dr. Kearns spent the next two hours patiently identifying mineral specimens that club members had brought. Most of the specimens were easy for him, but for the tougher ones, he prepared a small sample which he placed in the x-ray diffraction analysis machine. Results took about 20 minutes. One of the more interesting specimens was brought by Mike Bolster. From the Morefield Mine, it was a two (2) inch crystal of mica which contained a long, black crystal. It was not schorl. The x-ray diffraction machine showed it to be "prosopite and flourite". Since this was exciting for Dr. Kearns, Mike donated the specimen to JMU. Thanks Mike.



Another aspect of this trip was the opportunity for us to meet club members from the Shenandoah Valley Club. I hope you now know some of these folks better because their trip planner and I took a few minutes to discuss several possibilities for joint field trips this coming year. They wanted to join us for a trip to Chestnut Ridge for quartz crystals and we wanted to join them on a trip to the Dixie Iron Mine for rockbridgeite and skolithos in quartzite. (Note: The dates for those trips are elsewhere in this newsletter.)

All in all, it was a great trip.



(* SMRMC Attendees: Dave Lines [trip leader], Mike B., Jim W., Sandy and Sam, Lorna and Mel, Linda and Kai, Ralph, Dale and Josh, Paul and Linda, Robert and Stephanie, and newest member Steve L.)

Meet the Member

Submitted by Carole Raucheisen



Name: Cheryl Reese

Area live in: Chesapeake Beach

Place of birth: Chambersburg, Pa.

Occupation: Ultrasound Tech

Marital status/spouse's name: Monty

Number of children: 2 Siamese cats, Bella and Pi

How became interested in rocks/minerals/fossils: Always. As a kid, she picked up rocks, sticks, anything interesting, and was fascinated with caves.

How long a collector: Cheryl has been collecting shark's teeth since moving to Chesapeake Beach in 1986. After seeing a Rock Show flyer and joining the Club two years ago, she is expanding her collection.

What you like to collect: Material for jewelry making. Someone donated lapidary equipment to her, so Cheryl is looking forward to making jewelry in the upcoming year. She has made jasper cabochons, and Bob is helping her set raw turquoise in silver.

Favorite find and how found: Geode from Utah with purplish drusey.

Favorite Rock Club experience: Utah.

Funniest Rock Club experience: In Utah, their car had a flat tire so they rode to the collection site with Harry and Tina. But then, Harry and Tina got a flat tire.

Most memorable field trip: Chestnut Ridge, really enjoyed finding crystals

What you have gained from the Rock Club: A lot of friends, knowledge, and a lot of laughs.

What you would still like to find/collect: Herkimer Diamonds in matrix.

Other interests: Piano, reading Stephen King and Jodi Picoult, Broadway musicals, and road trips. She is planning a trip to Alaska.

Message from the Editor

By Jessica Dixon

Another year has busily begun and we are preparing for our annual rock show. With all of the preparations and excitement it is easy to lose track of time. It is looking to be a great day. Hopefully everyone can make it out on the 19th!

As I was reading through the AFMS February newsletter, I found a great article on writing articles that I want to briefly share with everyone. It is on writing articles. I find the same people writing pieces, which are fantastic pieces I enjoy reading, as I hope everyone else does. But for those of you who haven't ventured into writing, there are a few tips you can use to put together a great piece. Steven Wade Veatch gave a presentation at the Editor's workshop in 2010 and had some great advise to offer.

1. Write about what interests you. If you are interested, chances are others will be too.
2. Make an outline. Three parts: *clear* opening, *interesting* body, *short* conclusion.
3. Use your outline to stay on focus, adding details, photos and/or tables when appropriate.
4. Let some time pass before you revise. Sometimes a fresh perspective does wonders.
5. Come up with an eye-catching title. This will make people want to keep reading!

If you are interested in more information, check out the AFMS February newsletter for the full article. You can also contact me for any assistance you might need. I am more than willing to bounce ideas back and forth or ask some questions that might help you narrow down a focus. The most important thing to remember is to enjoy what you're writing. If you do, we will too!

Hopefully we will see some fresh names gracing the pages of the Rock Talk one day very soon!

Thank you

David and Jennifer Knies

For once again hosting the holiday party
at your home in Marbury.



Tumbling Contest



Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society, Oroville, CA is pleased to announce the

Third Annual World Rock Tumbling Championship

It's time to challenge the champions! The Third Annual Rock Tumbling contest is open to everyone, any age, worldwide, who enjoys tumbling rocks and wants a shot at being the best in the world. Here's how:

- Send in a completed application (below) with a \$40.00 entry fee postmarked no later than May 6, 2011.
- Nevada Royal Jasper mine owner, Randy Messer, has agreed to provide the contest material this year. Each contestant will receive almost 4 pounds of rough sent USPS Priority Mail by the end of May.
- Contestants will have over three months to tumble the rock in a rotary or vibratory tumbler and mail a half-pound
- (1/2 lb) of the best pieces for judging. The entries must be received no later than September 23, 2011.
- Steve Hart, author of Modern Rock Tumbling, will evaluate each entry on the basis of smoothness, shape, shine and overall appeal. He will select the top five entries to be displayed at the FRLMS Rock and Gem Show held in Oroville, California the first week-end of October.

Everyone attending the Rock and Gem show will examine the top five entries and cast a ballot for their favorite. The top three popular vote winners will be announced following the show.

1st Place: \$250.00 2nd Place: \$100 3rd Place: \$50

Note to Rock and Gem clubs: Get your club noticed! Consider sponsoring a contestant from your club. This year we will include club affiliation when announcing the name of the winners! Also, this is a wonderful opportunity for your junior members to learn more about tumbling and competition.

(FRLMS is actively seeking a source of tumbling rough for the 2012 contest. Please contact the club at the address below or through the website www.oroillerocks.com with suggestions.)

2011 Application Form

Name _____ Phone _____

USPS Mailing Address _____

City, State, Country, Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Name of Club: _____

Please mail applications with a check or money order by May 6th to:

FRLMS Contest Headquarters, PO Box 2645, Oroville CA 95965

SMRMC Showcase

By Linda Holden



Be sure to stop by the Surratts-Clinton Library to check out the display case and wall gallery featuring our club and upcoming Rock, Mineral, and Jewelry Show. You can see the display throughout the month of February. The display case shows many of the rocks, minerals and fossils that we have found or purchased on our various field trips. In addition, there are various samples of lapidary work, as well as pieces of jewelry that can be made at the different classes offered. The wall gallery has pictures of some of our past field trips and important information about our club. We hope that this display will generate interest in our club and encourage others to check us out by visiting our web site and/or meetings. The display was organized and put together by Ralph Gamba, Linda & Paul Holden, and Lorna Larson.

Don't miss seeing it!!

DON'T FORGET!
SMRMC MINERAL, JEWELRY AND FOSSIL SHOW
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2011
10-5
SHOWPLACE ARENA
\$3.00 PER PERSON



ROCKTALK

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

Next Meeting
February 26, 2010
7:00 PM

We're on the web:

SMRMC.org

February's
Refreshments/
Programs

Refreshments:

Tina and Harry League

Program:

Joe Davis is doing a program discussing what fossils are found in our area (Potomac, Chesapeake Bay and Pax River). He will talk about how to find them and care for them after collecting.