

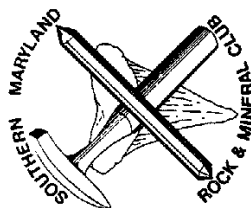
May 2011



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

Spring is here with perfect rockhunting weather. Harry and I had a great trip to National Limestone Quarry, PA in April. We found some beautiful calcite crystals specimens- and I must say our office is getting a bit crowded with "rocks".

Last week we cured our HKNY fever symptoms with a trip to Herkimer, NY for Herkimer Diamonds. Our arms are sore and our sunburn is peeling, but we'll be ready for another trip in no time. We found some beautiful "diamonds" along with the beautiful weather. We had the pleasure of meeting Diamond Jim- a local legend of the Herkimer miners. Paula had the opportunity to spend the day with him pounding on hard rock and

learning the techniques from a "pro". He's in his eighties and is truly an inspiration.

We got to hang out with several of the local commercial miners and were very impressed with the crystals they extracted from the "crazy hard" rock. These guys love mining at Herkimer. Yes, they do make money from their finds, but that's not the only reason they're there day in and day out. It's the thrill of the hunt. They are very good at "reading the rock" and manage to routinely find pockets of diamonds. They have a fantastic camaraderie, along with the occasional rivalry, which makes their days in the mine seem more like a social gathering than hard work. They're a great

group of people and we really enjoyed our time with them.

Bob is in the process of the September Utah trip planning....I can't wait!!

Really, I can't wait...we need more field trips soon. Well, there is gold fever next month.

Contrary Creek here we come....see you there.

Inside this issue:

Message from the President	1
EFMLS/AFMS News & Upcoming Shows/Events	2
Minutes	3
National Limestone Quarry	4
Upcoming Trip to Lake Anna/Contrary Creek	5
Meet Member/Editor's Message/Just a Moment	6-7
Upcoming Program	8

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



This month's EFMLS newsletter contains a large about the AFMS convention coming up in July. There are a large amount of activities and speakers included at the convention this year. It is something worth looking into if you are interested.

Elery Borow has a great safety piece called "Chocolate, Coffee, and Eggs." Check it out!

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



Rules for rockhunting on public lands are changing. This month's AFMS newsletter outlines the changes that everyone needs to be aware of before going on trips on Public lands.

There is an article about Rockhound State Park and saving it for future hunting. Tine, our president, wrote about this last month and it is nice to see it be such a national effort.

For more information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

May 21, 2011: Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show - Saturday, - 10am-4pm Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd Towson MD 21204

June 10, 2011: Auction Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Club 7:30 at the Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD.

June 11, 2011: Lake Anna Swap. Lake Anna State Park, VA. JUNE 11th, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pavilion #1 at Lake Anna State Park, Virginia. Directions: I-95, to exit # 118 Thornburg; go west on VA Rt. 606 to VA Rt 208, follow Rt. 208 to Rt. 601, right on Rt. 601 and continue to Park entrance on left; follow park road to lake, pavilion #1 is around on the left, well past the beach facilities

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

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

Cover Photo taken by Jessica Dixon

April Minutes

By Cheryl Reese

DATE: April 26, 2011

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:10 p.m.

GUESTS WERE WELCOMED AND INTRODUCED : 4 guests were present

TREASURER: No Change

MEMBERSHIP: There are now 84 up-to-date members. To become a member you must still set up a Smart link account through the nature center in person.

PROGRAMS: Programs are still needed for May, June and July. Tonight's program was presented by Denise Nelson, on Mines & Gemstones of Minas Gerais, Brazil

FIELD TRIPS: **April 30--** National Limestone Quarry, Leaders: Harry and Tina
May 8-14 Herkimer Diamond Mine, Herkimer New York, Leader: Bob
Late May - Date TBD Joint trip with Shenandoah Club, Destination TBD
June 4th or 11th Dave hoping to set up a trip TBD, however this may change since the Lake Anna Swap date got changed.
June 11 - Region IV of the EFMLS Lake Anna Swap and picnic 9-3
Bring a dish or dessert and rocks to swap.
Month of May -William Holland School in NW Georgia, Lorna and Mel giving classes on beading and faceting.
September 9th to?? - Utah rockhounding around the Delta area

One of our members, Rick Simczak, is scanning old field trip articles into PDF files, from old Rock and Gem and Lapidary journal magazines. He has a list if you are interested in seeing any of these.

EDITOR: No report

WEBMASTER: Site updated with latest field trips info. Bob will look into improving the site with information on joining the club.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

ADJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. followed by refreshments and the program. Refreshments provided by Linda Conboy.

National Limestone Quarry

By Tina League

On April 30, 2011 five SMRMC members (Tina, Harry, Joe, Paula and Jim) went on a joint field trip with the Northern Virginia Rock Club to National Limestone Quarry in Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA. The weather was perfect- sunny and seventy. Ted Carver and several No.VA club members (I'm not sure of the count, as some members arrived later in the morning) and SMRMC members gathered at the office to meet with the quarry owner for the safety briefing. He directed them to an area where the calcite crystals could be found in great quantities due to a recent blasting. Everyone headed down to the site and began hunting for calcite crystals. Their efforts were rewarded almost instantly as the crystals were abundant. There was a large pile of boulders that had been blasted from the rock wall that were full of the beautiful stones. Everyone started hammering away and had their buckets full in no time. I found a very large boulder that looked like a giant geode. Harry pounded away and split it open. It was full of crystals from top to bottom. We were rewarded with a very nice 2 foot slab covered with crystals on both sides. We also managed to load another large section of the same boulder into the truck to split later.

There were also boulders covered in purple fluorite that were chiseled away on for specimens for several collectors. Around noon Jim, Ted and the rest of his group headed up the hill to look for wavelite and fossils. Harry and I and Joe and Paula stayed behind in the crystal area to hunt through more boulders. We all found some very nice specimens and had a great time at the quarry. Ted packed up around 2:00 to head to another fossil site in the area. It was a wonderful day and we're looking forward to another visit to this site in the near future.



Lake Anna Swap and Picnic on June 11, 2011

By Dave Lines

The **NEW DATE** for the **Lake Anna Rock Swap and Picnic** for Region IV of the EFMLS has changed (from May 14th) to **JUNE 11th, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pavilion #1 at Lake Anna State Park, Virginia.** Please bring a dish or dessert to share and your drinks. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. All ages invited. Kids are especially welcomed and will have special doorprizes. Bring some rocks to swap and some of your extras to give to the Treasure Box. Come even if you don't have any rocks to swap --- you can get free ones from the Treasure Box. Schedule --- swap in morning; eat lunch; auction more rocks after lunch; more swapping in afternoon. Field trip to follow.

Field Trip Meeting Time

--- **Meet at Lake Anna State Park, Pavilion #1 at 2 p.m.** --- or at the Contrary Creek parking area about 3 p.m. @ 6-11-2011

Trip Leader

--- Dave Lines

Location

--- Contrary Creek near Mineral, VA. Park on southwest side of road just past the bridge.

Directions --- use a map:

(1) To Contrary Creek via I-95, to exit # 118 Thornburg; go west on VA Rt. 606 to VA Rt 208, follow past Lake Anna to U.S. Rt 522, go left and follow 522 about a mile to bottom of hill across bridge; parking on right side immediately past bridge. (do not meet here until 3 p.m.)

(2) To Lake Anna State Park --- I-95, to exit # 118 Thornburg; go west on VA Rt. 606 to VA Rt 208, follow Rt. 208 to Rt. 601, right on Rt. 601 and continue to Park entrance on left; follow park road to lake, pavilion #1 is around on the left, well past the beach facilities---(for those who desire to attend and enjoy the Region IV Lake Anna Rock Swap and Picnic), will meet first at Pavilion #1 at Lake Anna State Park anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and follow me to the site some time after 2 p.m.

Safety --- location is **IN** the stream --- expect everything to get wet --- and dirty. Wear old shoes to prevent cut feet, etc.. Bring safety glasses, heavy gloves, old clothes (long blue jeans), hat, sun lotion, bug spray.

What to Collect --- *Gold Panning-even you can find some gold.* You can also find almandine garnets loose and in mica schist. Best ones are found in the schist/talc that is dug out of stream bedrock. Also, small, bright pyrite crystals, well-formed magnetite crystals and some actinolite crystals have been recovered recently in same location.

Equipment/ clothing

--- rock hammer, 3 - 4 pound crack hammer, chisels, garden scratcher, shovel, 5 gal. bucket, old newspaper for wrapping specimens, small pry bar. Optional -- hard rock equipment such as large sledge hammer, long pry bar. Your best tools are a strong back and sharp eyes. Bring a change of clothing --- stream water is clean, but will stain your clothes RED. For gold panning, also bring gold pan, shovel, screen, small vial or film canister.

Vehicles

--- Please consider *carpooling* as *parking is tight here on weekends* due to serious gold prospecting on downstream lease.

Misc

--- Bring plenty of drinking water and snacks. Nearest restrooms are about 1 mile away at gas station/convenience store at intersection of 208/522.

Sign-up List--- Send Dave an email with your name and cell phone Number --- or you may sign-up at upcoming meeting on May 24th.

Meet the Member

By Carole Raucheissen



Name: Christine Proctor

Area live in: Brandywine

Place of birth:
Washington, D. C.

Occupation: Landscape supervisor for MNCPPC – central area

Marital status/spouse's name: Brian

Number and ages of children: none

How became interested in rocks/minerals/fossils: When Christine was in elementary school, her mother's geologist friend gave her geodes, three nice pieces of dinosaur bone, and other rocks.

How long a collector: Ever since the geologist started Christine's collection.

What you like to collect: Geodes and more geodes. Also fossils and beautiful minerals. Christine has bought geodes through the years, but the Utah trip was the first time she collected them herself.

Favorite find and how found: You guessed it. The 55-60 geodes she collected in Utah. Most have been opened and left natural. Christine loved digging them from the hole, and now enjoys looking at their drusey interiors.

Favorite Rock Club experience: On the Utah trip, having the opportunity to dig her favorite rock out of the ground, and hanging out with Polly.

Funniest Rock Club experience: The feverish swarm of collectors digging into a newly dumped pile of dirt at the Moorefield Mine. Christine said she had been told what to expect, but you have to see it for yourself.

Most memorable field trip: Utah

What you have gained from the Rock Club: Christine really enjoys the club members.

What you would still like to find/collect: Fossils

Other interests:

Art – Plant life (leaves, nature) with oil- and water-based paint

Photography – Using her digital camera, black and white photos of stages of plant life, wildlife, and friends

Likes to plant her own yard

Two cane corso dogs: Hector and Hemi

Message from the Editor

By Jessica Dixon

As summer is quickly approaching, we are all looking forward to warmer weather and spending more time outside. Indeed, trips are being planned. As I read through the AFMS and EFMLS newsletters, I find there is always a safety reminder about going on trips. Please remember not to let the sunshine make you forget your safety when you are out on trips. Check out the newsletters on www.amfed.org/efmls for safety articles.

Speaking of trips...remember to write up your point of view for a trip report! There is always someone with a camera, so share those pictures! If you need some help with writing a report, please let me know. I can give you some pointers and help you fill in the blanks. But your thoughts and sidenotes are wonderful to include in the RockTalk!

Just a Moment

By Ellery Borow, EFMLS ACROY Chair (Article from May 2011 issue of EFMLS Newsletter)

Just a moment, yes, just a moment is all it takes to be a great candidate for Club Rockhound of the Year (CROY). I'm sure clubs have within their memberships those dedicated folks who year after year, time after time support our activities. We, here on the CROY committee, urge clubs to submit the names of those dedicated folks to become their club's Rockhound of the Year. Yes, I'm sure every club has such dedicated folks. But then, let us not forget the other ways members support our clubs. Many of the ways our clubs are supported can be brief, fleeting moments of inspired and inspiring good will.

Just a moment is all it took for the following examples I've witnessed: An impossibly busy show chair is racing about the hall trying to be everywhere and do everything. This person stopped dead in their tracks to spend precious time to help a kid find what information they needed for the club's treasure hunt game at the show. A club librarian who was valiantly trying to log in all the books coming and going before the meeting room closed for the evening somehow managed to find time to help a member with their research question. A normally dour and grumpy club member suddenly brightens when asked by another member about a long-closed collecting site. The member asking the question knew it would brighten the day of the usually dour member if they were asked about their long-ago collecting adventures. All of these inspiring events took just a moment, yet no doubt made a great impression, or taught us all a valuable lesson.

Surely, you have your own stories to tell of similar kind acts which not only support the hobby but each other as well. Truth be told, such kindnesses were probably not one of a kind events but instead glimpses into truly dedicated individuals - ones who also deserve to be recognized as your club's nominee for Club Rockhound of the Year. Let's hear it for these good folks who help in either the grand or small (yet still grand) ways. Let's hear about your club's good folks!

The rules - clubs may submit the name of one person (or couple) per year as well the name of one junior. Along with the name of your candidate, please send me a brief, 75 words or less, write-up of their story in supporting your club. Any club member may make a submission for their club.

Please find my address under Club Rockhound of the Year toward the back of this newsletter.

Thanks, and hope to hear from your club soon.

**Ellery Borow-207-547-3154



ROCKTALK

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

Next Meeting
May 24, 2011
7:00 PM

We're on the web:

SMRMC.org

May's
Refreshments/
Programs

Refreshments:

Polly Zimmerman and Jessica Dixon

Program:

Part 2 of "Opal Fever" -DVD continues with the life of Australian opal miners where the rewards are often offset with disasters.