

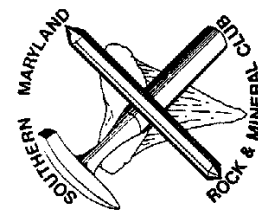
June 2011



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

Hello everyone. Did you know that in June America celebrates Great Outdoors Month? Tim Fullerton, Director of New Media, US Department of the Interior, recently sent out an email to ALAA members regarding President Obama's America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative. According to Tim Fullerton the AGO Initiative is based on the tenet that lasting conservation solutions should start with the American people- that nobody knows which places are most important to American communities better than the people that live, work and recreate in them. He says that the Department of the Interior and other government agencies are hard at work talking to communities

and implementing the recommendations of the AGO report.

I would hope that Rockhounds will be included in this "survey" and that our voices may be heard. We all love the great outdoors and spend a lot of time on public lands that are maintained with our tax dollars. We need to make our opinions heard and make them count! It seems that the current trend in the government is to make our public lands into "touch-me-not" guest towels...you can look, but do not touch. We need to put a halt to this mentality, or our rockhounding days will be over (not to mention camping, fishing, hiking, climbing, etc...) Just a thought.....

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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/AFMS News

Submitted by Jessica Dixon



The EFMLS President did an amazing job this month talking about the BLM issue. Check out what she had to say and join the movement to protect our lands for future rocking.

We were kindly recognized as being the first club to send in a monetary donation for the auction at the convention this year. Way to go SMRMC!

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



Here is a last minute reminder of the AFMS/EFMLS Convention in Syracuse, NY on July 6-10. If you are interested in going to the show, be sure to visit the AFMS website for more information!

For more information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

August 6, 2011: 16th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Sale. Morris Museum Mineralogical Society. Trinity Hall Science Pavilion (Buildings 7 and 8) Delbarton School, 230 Mendham Rd. Morristown, NJ 07960. Call John Sanfacon at 973-267-2839.

August 19 – 21, 2011: Gem Miner's Jubilee. Lebanon Expo Center, Route 72, 5 miles north of PA Turnpike, Exit 266, right on Rocherty Rd. www.gem-show.com. 717-838-8870. Friday and Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM. Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Admission \$6. Children under 12 free.

September 17 – 18, 2011: 46th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club. www.rockandmineral.org. Zembo Shrine, third and Division Streets, Harrisburg PA, Saturday 10 AM – 6PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission \$6.00.

September 24- 25, 2011: 47th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. www.gemcuttersguild.com Howard County Fairgrounds, I 70 at Route 32, West Friendship, MD Saturday 10 AM – 6PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission \$5.00.

November 12 – 13, 2011. 20th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Northern Virginia Mineral Club (www.novamineralclub.org) Saturday 10 AM – 6PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Student Union II Building, George Mason University Campus, Braddock Rd and Route 123, Fairfax, VA. \$5 – Adults, \$3 Seniors and Teens. Scouts in uniform and Children under 12 free.

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.

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

Cover Photo taken by Jessica Dixon

May Minutes

By Cheryl Reese

DATE: May 24, 2011

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

GUESTS WERE WELCOMED AND INTRODUCED: Barry and Tish reside here and in Arizona

TREASURER: No change

MEMBERSHIP: No report

PROGRAMS: Programs still needed for June & July
Denise and Dennis Nelson were pleased with the response to their program on gems and will return in November for another program

FIELD TRIPS: May 28th Morefield Mine 9:30-5:00

June 11-Region IV of EFMLS Lake Anna Swap and picnic. Bring a side dish. Swap from 9-2 followed by field trip to Contrary Creek

June 11- There is a 1 day 50% sale off the Larry Krause mineral collection. Ralph has the flyer

July 2nd or 9th- Farmville VA, an amethyst location. \$20/person
Dave is trying to get that price lowered

August TBD- Rhodenite Mine in Virginia, More info will be given later.

EDITOR: Jessica would like to see more reports and pictures of field trips or even pictures of things that you find that may be interesting to other club members

WEBMASTER: There is a new link on the website for "Becoming a new member"
You can now register by phone, even if you are an out of county resident. Payments are by credit card.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: There is a new beach comber's club in Charles County and they have asked if one of our club members would give a talk on the kind of rocks and minerals they may find on one of their walks. If interested, please see Polly.

ADJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 followed by refreshments provided by Polly and Jessica and a program by Bob, Opal Fever Part II

Morefield Mine Trip

By Joe Davis, Pictures by Marco Pasquale de Pompa, III



I was not very impressed my first time at Morefield Mine so I had no plans to go back. At the monthly meeting Dave said that there was going to be a “club member only” day. When he asked who was interested not one person raised their hand. I didn’t want Dave to have to go alone so I volunteered. I should have known, all of my military friends keep telling me **never ever** volunteer for **anything**. As soon as I said that I would go, Dave told me that he wasn’t going, He already had other plans for that day. Before I could withdraw my offer, Tina told Paula that Harry

and she would join us. I was able to talk the two new members, Ralph and Marco into going with us also.

Saturday morning we started off for the mine. Thanks to a wrong turn on the Powhite Parkway we were running a few minutes late as usual. We arrived at the mine to find Harry and Tina out in front of the office waiting for us like parents waiting for their daughter to come home from her first date. The mine was a little busy and judging by the number of small children, the “club member only” was not being enforced.

Ten thirty in the morning and it was already getting hot. The humidity was so high that moisture was just hanging in the air. It didn’t take long for the first dump. Soon we were finding plenty of amazonite and shiny books of mica. We were also finding an occasional garnet or quartz crystal. There were also chunks of smoky quartz in a feldspar matrix. Some people were talking about common opal but I couldn’t tell it from the pieces of white quartz. With a little looking around, we all started finding small pieces of amethyst of varying degree of darkness. Late in the day, after the second dump, there was a short but very heavy shower. The hard rain pounded down the dust and fine dirt. Before it even finished small chips of garnet were beginning to appear right before my eyes, covering the dump sight. Before I was ready to go I was being told that the mine closing. I was having such a good time that I lost track of time.

We left the mine and went out, where we were treated to dinner . I had a great day spending time with my new friends.



Caution, Falling Rock

By Ralph Gamba

We've all seen the sign CAUTION, FALLING ROCK that we probably take it for granted. Occasionally, we will see a few stones or maybe a boulder or two that fell from a roadcut. Then there is the boulder that fell along side of US 321, near Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.



We collect in quarries and near roadcuts and need to be aware of the danger of falling rocks. The law of gravity has not been repealed. Just ask anyone who recently weighed themselves. Objects fall. The actions of water, freezing water, and temperature changes can dislodge rocks from roadcuts and quarry walls. If we are not careful, these rocks can fall on us collectors, causing serious injuries and even death. A helmet, no matter how strong, would not protect anyone from a boulder like the one in the above picture.

When collecting in quarries and roadcuts, be aware of any danger. Examine your surroundings. If the rocks look loose, they probably are. Even if it looks safe, it still may not be safe. Stay a safe distance from quarry walls. Being foolish and unsafe could lead to losing our access to collecting in quarries. We could also lose our lives. Remember the boulder on the side of US 321. CAUTION, FALLING ROCK.

Meet the Member

By Carole Raucheissen

Name: Mary Burns

Area live in: Baden

Place of birth: Washington, D. C.

Marital Status: Not married

Occupation: Retired 6th grade teacher at James Ryder Randall and District Heights Elem. Schools

Number and ages of children: Christine

How became interested in rocks/minerals/fossils: She knew a rock collector who married late in life, but his wife didn't like rocks, so he sold them. Christine and Mary bought about 30 geodes for \$1 each. They didn't open them all at once, rather, spacing them out.

How long a collector: 20 years or more

What you like to collect: Geodes, crystals, and tumbled items, especially rose quartz.

Favorite find and how found: A huge amethyst measuring about 2 feet across that she "found" and bought from Maholo Minerals. She had to have a couple of men carry it out for her, and then had to find a couple more to carry it into her house.

Favorite Rock Club experience: Collecting fossils at the recent Calvert County beach trip. She said Dave was very helpful in showing her how to find shark's teeth, and she found many (about 50). Mary was also pleased to find lots of beach glass.

Most memorable field trip: The Calvert County beach trip.

What you have gained from the Rock Club: Being with people who are very friendly, welcoming, and encouraging. As soon as you attend a meeting, you feel a part of the group. She appreciates people like Bob and Ralph who just seem to enjoy sharing.

What you would still like to find/collect: More beach glass and fossils.

Other interests: Animals. She has a Hurricane Katrina rescue dog, and every other stray that ever crossed her path. Mary says that Christine doesn't allow her to divulge how many animals she has, so Mary will just say she has 2 dogs and 6 cats. But, she says she's not some weird lady with cats and dogs hanging out the windows.

Message from the Editor

By Jessica Dixon

Summer is here! It is amazing how the world wakes up in the spring and just comes alive in the summertime. Now that kids are out of school (and teachers too!), they are always looking for something to do. Do you know a child who has an interest in rocks? Maybe they can join you on your next adventure. Have them write a story about their adventure in the earth. That would make a great article for the RockTalk!

Also, please keep in mind that our July RockTalk will be the final one for the summer. We will have a combined August/September newsletter. There will be reminders in the July newsletter about the events that will occur in August, as well as a program reminder in August. That being said though, please don't forget to send in your trip reports and articles as you think of and write them.

Please remember to stay safe as you make your journeys this summer. Sunscreen and other protection from those UV rays is a must, even if it is cloudy. Also, don't forget plenty of water when you go out there...dehydration is nothing to mess with!

Those Were the Days

By Dave Lines

" Those were the days! November 18th, 2007. We had all 40 acres of Hunting Hill Quarry in Rockville, Maryland to ourselves. It is HUGE! 300 plus feet deep of and lots of neat minerals. And close to us. But alas --- no more. It is now closed to field trips. The trip report for this club trip can still be found on our club website www.SMRMC.org under 2007 Field Trips."





ROCKTALK

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

Next Meeting
June 28, 2011
7:00 PM

We're on the web:

SMRMC.org

June's
Refreshments/
Programs

Refreshments:

Cheryl and Monty Reese

Program:

Our June program will be our own mini rock swap and sale. Please start looking through your collection of rocks, minerals and fossils **now** for items you would like to swap or sell. No doubt, all of us have plenty of extra materials that other would love to add to their own collections. Perhaps, you have some unusual or rare items that you would be willing to make available for swap or to sell.

Start rooting through all those treasures you have accumulated in your basement, barn, garage and yard. Fill **one (1) beer flat** with items you would like to swap or sell. Be sure to label all your specimens. Also, please bring **1-2 items** to put in the **FREE Treasures** pile. This will be an incentive for our young ones to add to their collections, as well. You may want to arrive a little earlier so that you can scope out what others have to offer. Hopefully, everyone will find something new or interesting for swap or sale.