

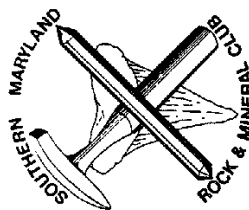
May 2012



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

On April 28th Harry, Myself, Joe, Paula, Gary and Cindy went to Ogdensburg, New Jersey for the Sterling Hill Mine Super Dig. Ogdensburg is a few miles away from Franklin, New Jersey which is world famous for it's variety of fluorescent minerals. They had an action packed schedule of events that lasted until 11:00 pm. We all signed in and headed down to the rock piles to see what we could find. Hunting for fluorescent minerals in the daytime proved to be quite a challenge. We brought our black robes and heavy blankets to hide the sun from our specimens. It was quite a sight to see all of the "blanket lumps" scattered about the mine pit area. We collected minerals until 10:00 am

and then headed to the main tent for "Glowhound Orientation". The mine had many must-see tours on the schedule and there was no time to waste. We spent the day touring the Lower Mine, the Museum (fantastic museum!!), the Trotter Tunnel, the Upper Mine and Mill (where we each got our "Last Day of Mine Operation" specimen off of the conveyor belt- certificate of authenticity included), the world famous Black-Out Tour of the Mine, and the grand finale the Illumination of the Fluorescent Wall in the pit area.

We even managed to get in some mineral hunting!! The night hunting was very "Halloweenish"...hundreds of people walking around in the dark with buckets and

flashlights/uv lights collecting "rock candy" of many vivid colors. It was a lot of fun!

The dig concluded at 11:00 pm when we all staggered out of the mine with our buckets of goodies. It was an action packed, fun filled, family friendly event that I would recommend to Rockhounds of all ages!

The next day we all went to the Franklin Gem and Mineral Show. It was a great show with a spectacular variety of minerals from all over the world. We had to exercise a great deal of restraint with our wallets...there were so many beautiful specimens for sale...so many...and so little room left in the car.....

(Pictures on Page 4)

Inside this issue:

Message from the President	1
EFMLS/AFMS News & Upcoming Shows/Events	2
Minutes	3
Sutter's Mill	4
Editor's Message	5
Upcoming Program	6

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



EFMLS reminds us this month to register for WildAcres. This is a great chance to learn something new and is a great get-away in September.

Ellery Borrow, the EFMLS Safety Chair reminds us to be careful when working with small particles. We usually remember to wear our hardhats and goggles, but what about a face mask to avoid breathing in particles that could do harm.

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



Owen Martin, the AFMS Safety Chair has presented an issue that could come up when hunting on private lands: unintentional consequences. This article is certainly worth the read!

For more information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

May 18 - 20 Martinsville, VA. Martinsville National Guard Armory; 315 Commonwealth Blvd. W. Fri. and Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5 Free. www.toteshows.com

May 19 – Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Show. Ruhl Armory, Towson, MD 10-4 Free admission. Take I 695, Baltimore Beltway to exit 26, York Rd. South. Ruhl Armory is on the east side of York Road.

May 25-27 Salem, Va. Salem Civic Center, 1001 Boulevard Fri. and Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-6. Adults \$3.00 (3-day ticket). Children under 16 free www.toteshows.com

June 8. Auction. Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society. Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD. 7:30 P.M.

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

SMRMC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Tina League

VICE PRESIDENT (membership):
Polly Zimmerman

VICE PRESIDENT (Programs):
Lorna Larson
Jim White

VICE PRESIDENT (Field Trips):
Ralph Gamba
Dave Lines

SECRETARY:
Christine Proctor

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
Carl Miller

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

***Cover Photo Courtesy of
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April Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: April 24, 2012; Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

Guests were welcomed and introduced: Don.

TREASURER: Same

MEMBERSHIP: The new roster will be sent out soon and members should have received their membership cards in the mail.

PROGRAMS: Tonight Denise Nelson will be speaking on pearls.

Next month Polly will be doing a program about jade including pieces from her personal collection.

We still need a program for November and someone for refreshment for June and November.

FIELD TRIPS: Polly, Carol, and Al went to Redville PA on a trip with the Southern Maryland Archeological Society to collect fossils found in red shale. The fossils were a newly discovered approximately seven years ago.

Dave attended a trip With the Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society in Glenda NC at the Standard Mineral Company Quarry. He brought in samples of pyrite in cubic form to show the group.

April 28, 2012-Gary Lohman is leading the trip to Sterling Hill NJ this weekend. Please contact him if you are planning to go.

May 12, 2012-Morefeild Mine. So far there are two people signed up for this trip. Tom Leary- Farmville VA, Scufflin Farm has amethyst.

May 14-18, 2012- Herkimer on the week of Mother's Day. This may be a last minute trip led by Tina and Harry.

May 25-28, 2012- Reel Mine North Carolina Memorial Day weekend collecting amethyst. Anna Baden plans on going and you would need to join magma online. (Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association) She can take up to four people in her vehicle. There is a fee of \$25/day for paid members and \$35/day for non-paid members. You can join at www.wncrocks.com

Cheryl found some pottery from the 1600's, pipe stone in brick, black glass with bubbles in it, and delft china which she had authenticated at Jefferson Patterson Park. She brought in samples to shoe the group.

EDITOR: Jessica would like to put out the newsletter the 1st of the month instead of the middle of the month.

WEBMASTER: Wes Lingerfelt of the Orcutt Mineral Society emailed internet acceptable posting policies. There is a formalized document available referring to control of the website and getting permission to put people's personal information on the site. If anyone objects to their name being in the newsletter or on the web site please let Bob know so he can be sure to omit it from now on.

Continued on Page 5

Sutter's Mill Meteorite

By Jessica Dixon

Imagine: a rock no bigger than a quarter valued at \$1,000 per gram! What a find, right? How about if this rock was from space?

On April 22, 2012, a “space rock” smashed through Earth’s atmosphere. An event that would be spectacular on it’s own, this meteorite has some special qualities that makes it even more valuable. The particles of the meteorite landed around the Sutter’s Mill area near the towns of Coloma and Lotus in El Dorado County, California. This area was known for its discovery of gold in the area in the 1840’s.

Scientists are trying to quickly locate as many pieces of this meteorite as possible in order to examine them before they begin to degrade. They will use equipment to test for carbon, water, and simple sugars-all of which are the building blocks to life.

Meteorite hunters are also on the hunt, either hoping to make some significant cash or just to find a rare piece of material for their collections. Some landowners in the area are even refusing to allow hunting on their property. Perhaps they are hoping to find pieces themselves?

Rockhounding is done by keeping your eyes on the ground in front of you. But perhaps there is something to be said by keeping your eyes on the heavens as well. It could very well lead you to your next great find!



Sources:

<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap120428.html> (photo)

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/05/03/4463578/scientists-on-the-hunt-for-meteorite.html>

<http://astrobob.areavoices.com/2012/05/01/happy-hunters-show-off-their-sutters-mill-meteorite-gold/>

Sterling Hill Mine

Photos courtesy of Harry and Tina League



Editor's Message

By Jessica Dixon

This month's newsletter is coming to you a little earlier, as you may have noticed. At April's meeting, I mentioned that the timeframe for the RockTalk would be changing. This is to ensure that it comes to you in a timely manner. With everyone's hectic schedules, it is easy to forget to submit pieces and for me to put it all together in time for the monthly meetings.

Because of this change, I am requesting that all articles for each month are received by the first of the month. This will give me time to get the newsletter out within the first week of each month. And it will give you ample time to prepare for the meeting on the fourth Tuesday.

This being said, I am CALLING ALL MEMBERS! I do need your help in order to put out a newsletter. Those of you who contribute regularly, thank you so much! But, I can't fill in all the empty pages alone. If you have any ideas for an article, please contact me. I can help you put it together (not write it for you, just put it together).

Please consider putting together an article. If you found something interesting on the web, write up a summary and cite your sources. If you go on a trip without the club, write up a trip report. Maybe others would like to join you next time and we can make it an official trip. There are many options when putting an article together.

Happy Hunting!

April Minutes

CONTINUED

Children- suggested for junior members 1st name and picture have parental permission on an internet release form.

Gary Lohman's archeological site has web connectors.

OLD BUSINESS: Check the minutes for the meeting date that was decided on for November 2012. (From November 2011 minutes: "Motion made and approved to permanently hold future November meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month so it does not interfere with Thanksgiving.")

NEW BUSINESS: None.

AJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 for refreshments provided by Joyce and Susie, followed by a presentation on pearls given by Denise Nelson.



ROCKTALK

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



Refreshments:

Polly Zimmerman and Jessica Dixon

Program:

Polly Zimmerman will be presenting a piece on Jade.

Field Trips: For more information on upcoming trips, please contact the trip leader.

Date	Place	Leader
May 12	Scufflin' Farm	TBD
May 12	Morefield Mine	Ralph Gamba
May 13-18 (tentative)	Herkimer, NY	Tina League
May 25 - 28	Reel Mine MAGMA trip	Anna Baden