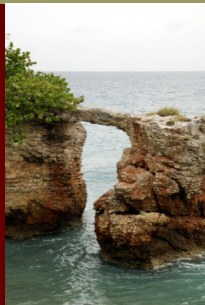


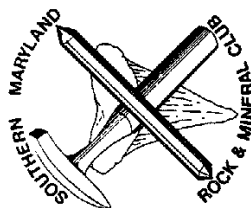
June 2012



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

Diamonds, Amethyst and Emeralds, oh my...rock collecting season has begun in earnest. In the past month Harry and I have collected fluorescent Willemite, Franklinite, Zincite, and *Nitelite*, at Sterling Hill Mine in New Jersey.

Then on to Herkimer, New York where we collected Herkimer Diamonds, rain soaked clothes, and 10,000 calories worth of seafood, ice cream and fresh baked bread.

Our latest trek was to North Carolina for the Amethyst dig at the Reel Mine in Iron Station and the Emerald dig at the North American Emerald Mines in Hiddenite. We collected beautiful Amethyst clusters, potters clay and sunburn at the Reel Mine.

At the NAEM we gathered a plethora of impressive minerals to add to our collection. We found specimens of Garnets, Calcite crystals (some encrusted with Pyrite), Rutile, smokey, clear, rose and Rutilated Quartz, Muscovite Mica, black Tourmaline and best of all-Emeralds! It's been a busy month!

Field trip reports will be forthcoming and I hope to have some specimens cleaned and organized for the next club meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the rock collecting enthusiasts who plan, organize, participate and facilitate these trips. Harry and I are very grateful for the opportunity to go on these "adventures".

It seems that wherever we go rock-hounding we meet the friendliest, enthusiastic, caring and knowledgeable people. THANK YOU!

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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



In the EFMLS June/July issue, we are reminded of the upcoming convention this September. This year's convention is close by, in Harrisburg, PA. There will be exhibits, speakers, and an opportunity to meet people from other clubs and regions. Consider attending.

There is also a report from AnneLynn Benson about the April session of WildAcres. If you are considering the fall session, give her article a read.

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



In the AFMS June/July issue, Wendell Mohr is working to see birthstones on stamps. Thus far, there has been no success in persuading the post office to issue these stamps. There needs to be enough voices to make this happen. Go to www.amfed.org/stamps.htm and look at the recent updates and see what you can do to persuade the post office.

For more information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

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

August 17-19: Gem miner's Jubilee Lebanon Expo Center, Route 72, Lebanon, PA \$6 admission 10 AM – 6 PM Friday and Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday. www.gem-show.com 717-838-8870.

August 25: EFMLS Region IV Picnic/Rock Swap. Gilbert Run Park, Charlotte Hall, MD. 9AM-3PM. \$4 parking fee.

September 22-23: Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Howard County Fairgrounds, I-70 and MD Route 32. 10 AM – 6 PM Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM Sunday \$5.00 admission. www.gemcuttersguild.com

September 29-30: Diamond State Fossil and Mineral Show. Doubletree Hotel, 4727 Concord Pike/ route 202, Wilmington DE. 10 AM – 5 PM Saturday and Sunday. Free admission, free parking.

October 11-13: World Championship Crystal Dig. Fairgrounds Road, Mount Ida, Arkansas 71957 Contact the Mount Ida Chamber of Commerce at 870-867-2723

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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VICE PRESIDENT (Programs):
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VICE PRESIDENT (Field Trips):
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***If corrections or additions are needed, please contact Rocktalk Editor

Cover Photo Courtesy of Microsoft Office

May Minutes

By Polly Zimmerman

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Tina.

Guests were introduced.

Treasurer: No change.

Membership: Everyone was to check their address information for errors, as a new roster will be compiled.

Field Trips: Group went to Morefield and had a great time and super collecting.

Dave showed his finds from a recent trip.

Gary shared information about night digging was “fun”.

N. Carolina trip will be this coming weekend.

June 9th will be a trip to Vulcan Quarry Safety equipment will be needed.

Newsletter: Jessica will continue to send out the newsletter earlier in the month.

Webmaster: No new information.

Old Business:

The November meeting will be on the 4th Tuesday because Thanksgiving is early this year. A vote was held for future November meetings (If 4th Tuesday is the week of Thanksgiving, meeting will be held 3rd Tuesday. If 4th Tuesday is after Thanksgiving, meeting will be held as usual)

We will check with Michael to find out what time the building will be open before meetings.

New Business: Dave will look into sponsoring the Lake Anna Swap meeting here in So. Maryland. Our club would host the event.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Program presented by Polly Zimmerman. Information on Jade.

Truth, Communication, and Harmony

By Cheryl Reese

AMAZONITE

A.K.A MICROLINE

Derives its name from the Amazon river in Brazil



A semi precious gemstone, Amazonite is an alkali feldspar mineral, a potassium aluminum silicate with a hardness of 6-6.5. It's crystal system is triclinic and prismatic with a conchoidal or uneven fracture. It is one of the most common feldspar minerals.

It is found in granite pegmatites and metamorphic rocks such as schist and gneisses. It is a very widespread mineral. Blue-green specimens of microcline are known as Amazonite and is mostly used for jewelry, generally be cut en cabochon.

Group: silicates
Crystal system: triclinic
Form/Habit: Short prismatic
Hardness : 6-6 1/2
Cleavage: Perfect, Good
Fracture: Conchoidal to uneven, brittle
Luster: Vitreous, dull
Streak: White
Specific Gravity: 2.6
Transparency: transparent to translucent



HEALING AND SPIRITUAL PROPERTIES

Amazonite is a stone of harmony and truth, it is a truth-teller and peacemaker assisting one in communicating one's true thoughts and feelings. On an emotional level this stone assists one in setting boundaries. It encourages one to speak and live one's truth for the highest good. It assists one of gaining self-knowledge



and in defining ones core beliefs and values.

On a physical level, Amazonite aids in cell regeneration and healing after injury. It is an excellent stone for gout and arthritis. It is helpful in preventing hair loss and helps repair brittle hair and nails. To use as a healing aid, hold or place on appropriate point.

Resources: The Book of Stones by Robert Simmons and Naisha Ahsian
Rock and Gem the definitive guide to rocks, minerals and fossils by The Smithsonian
The illustrated guide to Crystals by Judy Hall

Herkimer Diamonds

By Tina League

May 13th- 18th we went on our annual trip to Herkimer, New York. Bob was unable to attend this spring, however Joe, Harry and Tina from SMRMC and Jeff from the Richmond Club made the trek to Herkimer in search of Herkimer Diamonds.

We were faced with 3 days of rain, but were undaunted by the task at hand. We put on our rain gear and went to work with the sledges and chisels. Several nice specimens were found by all, even though the rain made it hard to see them. Joe had an unfortunate incident with his sledge and was unable to continue just as the sun came out. He was able to enjoy some delicious seafood and ice cream from Fat Cats before he had to head back home.

Jeff found some nice specimens and moved a lot of rock during the last two sunny days. Our New York friend Tom showed us some of the spectacular specimens he'd collected at the mine over the years. We all enjoyed watching Paul open up his "pockets" near the wall he had been working all week. He had bountiful buckets of beautiful crystals.

It was a good week, and we shall return.



Children of All Ages Playing in a Sandbox

By Ralph Gamba

On May 12, three members of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club, Marco, Tim and Ralph make the trip to collect at the Morefield Mine, Figure 1. Tom and Linda, Figure 2, from the Lynchburg, VA club joined us. Unlike our last trip in October, where we braved rain and snow, the weather was beautiful; sunny with temperatures in the 70s.



Figure 1. Marco and Timothy awaiting the opening of the Morefield Mine

Figure 2. Linda and Tom joining us at Morefield

The three of us arrived around 9 AM and Sam Dunaway, the mine owner, soon opened the gate. I suggested to Tim and Marco to start collecting around the discard piles for micros that most would discard. One collector reported finding a beryl in the discard pile on a previous visit. I found a spent blasting cap.



We then collected leftovers from previous dumps. We found the usual tantalite, but also a small sample of purple fluorite. Another collector found a small crystal of topaz.

At 12:30 Sam fired up his front end loader and dumped two loads. Although Sam mentioned that he had not been finding much cleavelandite in the recent diggings, he had some in the dumps. One piece had some green fluorite. We collected amazonite, mica and pieced of pegmatite for later examination.

About 2 PM, Tim left for home to examine his finds and I went to the car for a drink. I decided to look around at the upper sluice. Sam dumped there last Thursday, but there were plenty of nice amazonite still available. This is where I found my best pieces of amazonite.

At 3:30, Sam made two more dumps and we collected until 4:45, when it was time to leave. I found a piece containing monazite. I thanked Sam for providing wonderful collecting weather. We headed home from a busy day of playing in our sandbox, one we could share with children of all ages.

Burning Rocks

By Jessica Dixon

A 43 year old mother required an unexpected trip to the hospital in May after a trip to the beach with her family.

The rocks were picked up by Lyn Hiner's children during a visit to Tresles Beach in California. The kids thought they looked interesting, picked them up, and gave them to mom. Lyn put them in her pocket, where they remained as they went back to their home.

Later in the day, while hot sensation on her leg, pants were on fire. The third degree burns on her



The fire seems to have picked up by her children. The rocks had been covered in phosphorus, a substance that can spontaneously combust when out of water.

It is not known where these rocks may have come from. The beach where they were picked up is close to Camp Pendleton Marine Base as well as San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Both locations deny any connection to the mysterious rocks.

If there is a lesson to be learned here, it is safe to say it is be careful what you are picking up and putting in your pocket. It could very well burn you later.

Sources:

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/may/18/hot-rocks-speculation-catches-fire/>

<http://gma.yahoo.com/rocks-found-beach-mysteriously-catch-fire-womans-pocket-080801909--abc-news-topstories.html>

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-chat/2890297/posts>

Message from the Editor

By Jessica Dixon

Summer has arrived and collecting seems to be in full swing. With the coming months, please be careful to protect yourself: sunscreen and bug spray should be a part of your safety gear. Also remember we all want to hear about your adventures. Please write an article.

Also, I wanted to remind you that the July issue will be a combined July/August. There will not be a newsletter in August. But I will send out a reminder for the annual potluck/auction.

Please check out the months that we need programs and refreshments and sign up at the June meeting.

Happy Hunting All!



ROCKTALK

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

**Next Meeting
June 26, 2012
7:00 PM**

We're on the web:

SMRMC.org

Refreshments:

We do not have anyone signed up for refreshments on June 26th. If you are willing to take care of refreshments this month, please contact Jessica Dixon rocktalkeditor@yahoo.com

Also, we need a program for November and also refreshments for October and November. Please consider signing up!

**June's
Refreshments/
Programs**

Program:

Richard Simcsak will be presenting the program this month.

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

Date	Place	Leader
June 9	Vulcan Manassas Quarry	Ralph Gamba
October 11 -13	Mount Ida, Arkansas	TBD