

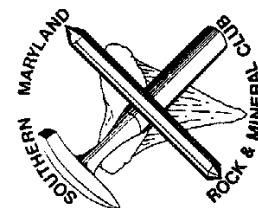
September 2012



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with and attended the Region IV Rock Swap/Picnic and our annual Pot Luck/Auction August meeting. Both events were successful and well attended.

There was a wide array of rocks and rock-hounding material to be swapped and bought and to Harry's delight, a bountiful feast to be eaten. It was wonderful to see everyone coming together to pull these events off. With everyone's participation and enthusiasm we should be able to hold more of these events in the future. It's a great way to see and share specimens from other rockhound's collections.

The field trip stories of how the items were acquired are interesting and educational. It's also a great way to find out about collection area's that we may not have been aware of. Information about area's that are still active and the one's that have closed to collectors recently is always needed for our future field trips. You can also gain important safety tips from these stories.

With summer's heat coming to a close, it's time to get back out in the field and put this knowledge to good use.

Happy Hunting!

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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 September issue of the EFMLS news, Ellery Borow writes an article about nominating someone for Rock-Hound of the Year. Is there someone in the club you think should be nominated? If so, check out the article for more information.

Ellery also writes a safety article and this month's article is all about hearing. Check it out for information on protecting those ears!

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



AFMS news this month includes information about the AFMS convention in Minnesota. Included are a list of articles from bulletins around the country that won awards. Check out the categories and get some ideas to submit!

Also included this month is a safety article about electrical storms. Check it out!

For more information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

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.

September 29 – 30 Gem and mineral sale, Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Saturday and Sunday, 10 AM – 3PM. 30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439. The Museum offers excess rocks, minerals, assorted books, mining and lapidary equipment to the public. For more information, go to: <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/gemmineral/index.php?gclid=CP3Lgoe-vLECFsUTNAodmncAcw> or call 973-209-MINE (6463)

November 17 – 18 Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show presented by the Northern Virginia Club, Inc. 10 AM-6 PM Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday Student Union II Building, George Mason University, Braddock Rd. and Route 123, Fairfax, VA Adults \$5, Seniors & teens (13-17) \$3. www.novamineralclub.org

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 Courtesy of Microsoft Office

2012 Region IV Picnic and Rock Swap

By Dave Lines; Photos by Sheryl Sims



"Hats off" to the 20 plus volunteers that made the event possible and so enjoyable. The list of volunteer actions and donations is long, but well worth our thanks (in no particular order) as follows: Jim W. signed up attendees, donated and distributed doorprize tickets; Mike B. donated stick-on name labels and marking pens; Ann B. collected doorprize and auction specimens from swappers; Cheryl and Montie R. assisted with unloading vehicles at the top of the hill and donated condiments; Linda C. made and placed direction signs from the highway; Polly Z. and Carole R. cooked all those burgers and hotdogs; Ralph G. donated charcoal, lighter fluid and set-up the Treasure Box and was the auctioneer; Lorna L. was head of the cleanup committee; Paula D. donated 40 burger buns plus bottled water and iced tea; Mike S. donated 80 fresh burgers from a deli butcher shop; Petra T. donated 40 burger buns; Michael P. donated and delivered 100 pounds of ice plus coolers; Harry and Tina L. delivered, designed and set up and removed overhead lighting inside the pavilion (without those lights, swapping would have been very difficult due to cloudy weather); Diane K. (and several others) donated plastic plates, cups and utensils; Richmond Gem and Mineral Society donated hotdogs and buns; and everyone else who donated the huge selection of tasty potluck food.



From the event coordinator's viewpoint, the whole operation went very smoothly because everyone of you who had a part stepped up and was 100% reliable. Thank you all very much.



If You Weren't There, You Missed Out

By Diane Kniskern, GMSVP (Reprinted with permission)

On Saturday, Aug. 25, I was fortunate to be able to attend the 2012 Region IV Rock Swap and Picnic, co-hosted by Carl Miller (Region IV Vice President) and the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club. The event was held in the Hilltop Pavilion at Gilbert Run Park, near Charlotte Hall, MD. Gilbert Run is a beautiful Charles County park with a 60 acre lake, a 2 mile hiking path, horseshoe pits, fishing, rental boats and more, located in Southern Maryland. The pavilion held 15 large picnic tables with plenty of additional open area all surrounded by lovely shade trees.

Swappers began arriving around 9 am, lugging expansive collections to the pavilion for trade. Although the aptly named Hilltop Pavilion is, indeed, perched upon a sizable hill, park designers were considerate enough to provide a "secret" driveway above the parking lot, so we were able to unload picnic supplies and rocks directly into the pavilion. I was greeted by volunteers who directed me to the driveway, took my picnic donations to the tables, set them out, and cut my dessert bars. They even unloaded all my rocks and carried them to a table. There were enough tables for everyone who needed the space to have his or her own large picnic table in the pavilion. The diversity of mineral and fossil specimens brought in was amazing - I felt like I was in a rock museum! I never did get to see them all.

By 11 am, everyone was getting hungry and the consensus was that it was close enough to the planned 'noonish' for lunch. Now, if I thought those people brought a wonderful variety of rocks, I was blown away by the potluck offerings! Since the allocated budget from EFMLS was small, an email had been sent out asking for donations of food, ice and labor; apparently the positive response was very good. Food donations from individuals included 80 fresh burgers from a deli butcher shop, 80 burger buns plus bottled water and iced tea; the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society donated hotdogs and buns; and everyone else donated the huge selection of tasty potluck food. Lunch was delicious.

After lunch was the auction and drawing of door prizes. There were so many donated specimens almost everyone in attendance got a door prize. There was also a nice selection of auction items. All of the donated mineral/lapidary/ fossil specimens were clearly labeled, some were in boxes. I was able to snag two nice porpoise vertebrae from Calvert Cliffs for only \$7, but I think they were being nice to me because I had volunteered to collect the auction money! The auction netted about \$204 which will help fund future picnic/swaps.

Other donations and actions included volunteers who: made and placed direction signs from the highway; assisted with unloading vehicles at the top of the hill; signed up attendees, donated and distributed door prize tickets; donated stick-on name labels and marking pens; donated and delivered 100 pounds of ice plus coolers; donated plastic plates, cups and utensils; cooked all those burgers and hotdogs; donated charcoal and lighter fluid, set-up the Treasure Box, acted as auctioneer; collected door prize and auction specimens from swappers; and cleaned up after the picnic. The enjoyable event was made possible by at least twenty willing volunteers, including a couple who designed, delivered, set up and removed overhead lighting inside the pavilion. Due to the cloudy weather and large trees shading the pavilion, these lights above our heads were greatly appreciated by everyone!

If You Weren't There, You Missed Out

CONTINUED

Another highLIGHT for me was "The Treasure Box." This was a large box (and surrounding table) into which attendees traditionally place their (labeled) surplus specimens which are free to anyone who wants them. I'm not sure if it was more enjoyable for me to look at everything and choose some cool specimens, or whether it was the good feeling that my own unwanted [:(] rocks were going to a good home!

The whole operation went very smoothly and overall, in spite of sporadic rain showers, everyone stayed dry and had a great time. If you weren't there, you missed out. I made several new friends and concurred with their unanimous decision to hold a similar event in the same location next year.

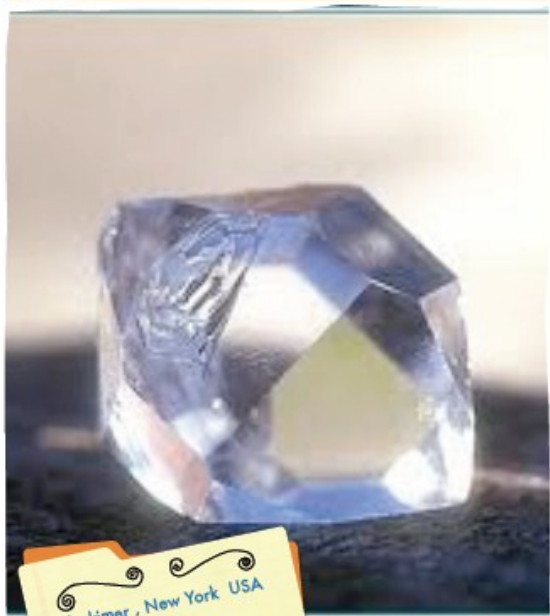


Herkimer Diamond

By Cheryl Reese

Quartz 'Diamond'

Herkimer Diamond



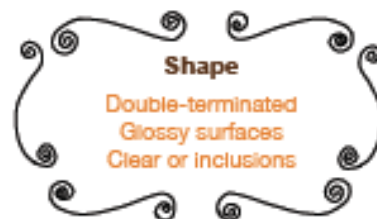
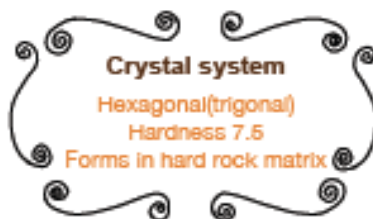
HERKIMER DIAMONDS AS A HEALING AND SPIRITUAL AID

These crystals, beyond almost all others, are manifestations of pure solidified spiritual light. They emanate a high, harmonious energy that positively "sings" on the upper levels of the Quartz vibrational spectrum.

They are ideal for use with dream work, meditation, energy tools, jewelry and many other uses. In dream work, one must simply sleep with them, either by wearing them or putting them in their pillowcase. It is recommended to program both oneself and the stone before sleep with the affirmation "I call forth my highest dreams and I remember and integrate them perfectly"

In meditation practices, Herkimers can assist by opening one's higher chakras and helping one remain focused on the meditative state. They can increase psychic sensitivity. This is the stone of dreams, astral travel and excursions out of one's body.

In healing, clear Herkimers assist by increasing the Light energy the body can utilize. They are excellent for supporting the eyes and eyesight. They can assist the physical body in purifying and cleansing and can support one's general physical stamina and energy level. Water included Herkimers are special healers of the emotional body. They assist one in looking at one's deepest self and in bringing the Light of the Spirit into dark places. In clear crystals, water inclusions channel the stone's effect to the heart center, creating an illuminating and uplifting energy. In foggier Herkimers, the water inclusion helps one to see what one fears most within oneself, while maintaining a clear, self-loving heart space.



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

July Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: July 24, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

Guests were welcomed and introduced: Petra from the Montgomery County rock club.

TREASURER: Same. 10% of next month's auction earning will go to the club treasury.

MEMBERSHIP: Same.

PROGRAMS: August- pot luck and auction. Start time is one hour early at 6:00pm.

Tonight's program is The Geology of Maryland and Three Interesting Parks to Visit presented by Penny and Ed.

FIELD TRIPS: July 7, 2012 was a fossil hunting trip set up through Ted Carver of the Northern Virginia Rock Club. Did anyone go??

July 14, 2012 there was a trip to The National Limestone Quarry in Pleasant Mills. 11 people went on this trip and they found calcite, wavalite, snail and plant fossils, etc. Joe, Paula, Tina, Harry, and Petra found fluorite in their other quarry.

August 25, 2012 Swap Meet at Gilbert Run Park.

Jim White-sign up guests and hand out door prize tickets

Mike Bolster- name tags

Anna Baden- collect specimens from people

Cheryl and Monty- help people with unloading

Linda Conboy- make 2 signs 18"X24"

A motion was passed to spend \$100.00 on miscellaneous items such as ice, coolers, etc.

Currently working to schedule a trip for September.

EDITOR: Absent.

WEBMASTER: The home page has the notice for the swap meet with a link to the directions. Bob will double check the newsletter and website for the correct date.

OLD BUSINESS: Anyone doing a program needs to give Mike 2-3 days notice so he can set up the computer and equipment.

NEW BUSINESS: Bob will not be at the swap meet due to a prior obligation to speak about rock hounding at the Deale Library.

Carole brought back some small flint from a trip to France and Joyce brought in boxes for anyone that needs some for transport their rocks to and from the swap meet.

AJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 for refreshments, followed by Penny and Ed's program on The Geology of Maryland.

National Limestone Quarry: This Could Be the Last Time

By Ralph Gamba and Tina League

On Saturday, July 14, eleven members of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club traveled to the National Limestone Quarry in Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA. The eleven who made the 4 hour trip were Tina, Harry, Joe, Paula, Joyce, James, Tim, Ralph B., Penny E., Mary and Ralph G. Members from the Northern Virginia and Montgomery County clubs joined in collecting on this trip arranged by Ted from the Northern Virginia Mineral Club.

The mine owner, Eric Stahl met us at 8:30. Many presented Eric with mineral samples to add to his collection. At around 9:00, Eric briefed us on collecting and gave a short witness on salvation of Jesus. Eric also said that he is negotiating the sale of the quarry and this was the last trip he scheduled. The new owners may not allow collecting, so this could be our last trip to the quarry - as the Rolling Stones sang "This could be the last time." Eric did say that if the negotiations fail, he would invite us back in the fall.

We then headed to the quarry, some going to the lower portion –the Tonoloway formation - for calcite, strontianite, and fluorite. Some headed to the upper quarry for wavellite and fossils.

At the lower quarry, Figure 1, Ralph G. opened a rock containing strontianite. He also found a plate containing nearly a dozen "dogtooth" calcite crystals up to 1 inch long. Others found calcite, along with strontianite and fluorite.



Figure 1. National Limestone Quarry, Lower Quarry

After collecting at the lower quarry, we went to the upper quarry, Figure 2. We obtained wavellite and fossils, including fossil snails.

Figure 2. Searching for wavellite and fossils at the upper quarry.



Around 3:00 pm Tina, Harry, Joe and Paula packed up to leave when Ted offered to show the way to the second quarry, several miles down the road. Petra from the Montgomery County club joined them. The five followed Ted north until they had to stop at a red light. Ted and company disappeared into the "wild blue yonder". Fortunately, Joe knew the way from a previous trip. They arrived at the quarry in search of flowstone and fluorite.

The quarry was huge and full of fascinating flowstone boulders, Figure 3. They collected some massive calcite "chunks", flowstone, and best of all, some beautiful purple fluorite, Figure 4, encased in calcite. They spent several hours breaking rock and packing up our finds. We headed out that

National Limestone Quarry

CONTINUED

evening sweaty and tired and very happy with our "buckets of goodies".



Figure 3. Flowstone

Figure 4. Fluorite



We all hope that we can visit this quarry again before it is sold.



ROCKTALK

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

Next Meeting
September 25, 2012
7:00 PM

We're on the web:

SMRMC.org

September's
Refreshments/
Programs

Refreshments:

Anna Baden

Program: Ralph Gamba: The Crystal System

Field Trips: For more information on upcoming trips, please contact the trip leader. Note: I will set up a trip to Farmville for amethyst if someone volunteers to be trip leader. (contact Ralph)

Date	Place	Leader
September 22	Willis Mountain	Ralph Gamba
October 13 (Tentative)	Morefield Mine	Ralph Gamba