

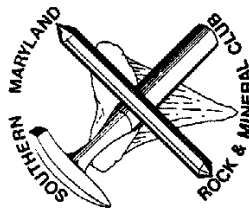
November 2012



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and a safe "Black Friday". It's hard to believe that it is the holiday season already and 2012 is coming to a close. With the end of the year approaching it is now time to select candidates for next years club officers.

I have enjoyed being President of the Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club for the past three years, but feel it's time for another club member to step up and take the reins for 2013. If any club member would like this position, please be sure to come to next weeks meeting as the nominating committee will announce the candidates for the elections in December. It is important that all club members take an active role in the "business end" of the club. Everyone's participation is needed to run a successful club.

I would like to thank our current officers for a great job in 2012:

Christine (Secretary),
Dave (Treasurer),
Polly (Membership),
Lorna & Jim (Programs),
Ralph (Field Trips),
Jessica (Editor),
Bob (Webmaster),
and Michael (Club Liaison).

You have all worked hard to make this club a success and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please be sure to attend next weeks meeting and also December's Christmas party meeting. Don't miss out on all the fun!

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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



This month's EFMLS newsletter includes the minutes from the annual meeting. It's great for those of us who were not able to attend to see what was discussed as a federation.

Also included is an article on ways to get kids involved in different ways and making the club meaningful for them.

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



Owen Martin, the Safety Chair, has included an article about Hurricanes and Hazard Recognition. This is a great read to remind us of safety in any situation.

There is a great article for kids (of all ages) on fluorescence that includes information as well as a fun activity.

Also included, for reminders, is the AFMS Code of Ethics.

For more information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

February 16: Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club Annual Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show. 10 AM – 5 PM, The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD. Admission \$3.00, children 6 and under free.

February 23: Wetumpka Impact Crater Day, Wetumpka, Alabama. Tour of the Wetumpka impact crater. For more information, call 334-567-5147.

March 16-17: 49th Annual GLMSMC Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show Montgomery County Fairgrounds 16 Chestnut Street Gaithersburg, MD Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5 Admission: \$6 ages 12 and older (children 11 and under, and scouts in uniform get in for free) See <http://www.glmsmc.com/show.shtml> for directions, coupon, and more information.

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

PRESIDENT:
Tina League

VICE PRESIDENT (membership):
Poly Zimmerman

VICE PRESIDENT (Programs):
Lorna Larson
Jim White

VICE PRESIDENT (Field Trips):
Ralph Gamba
Dave Lines

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WEBMASTER
Bob Davidson

EFMLS Representative
Carl Miller

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

Cover Photo Courtesy of Microsoft Office

September Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: September 25, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm

No guests or new members.

TREASURER: The Nature Center provided a lot of material that went up for auction at the August meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: We have three new members, the Keller's, the Lish's, and Mr. Tonucci. The total number of members is now 60.

PROGRAMS: Lorna will not be able to be in charge of programs and refreshments next year so she is starting a new sheet early to try to give the next person a head start. Tonight's program will be No Matter What Shape (your crystal has) The Crystal System, presented by Ralph Gamba. Refreshments are by Anna Baden.

FIELD TRIPS: There was a trip to **Willis Mountain last Saturday**, two people canceled. The east ridge was block off for safety reasons. Legal issues may prevent us from going back in the future. Materials collected included iridescent hemetie, kyanite, kyanite in quartz, and pink mica.

Ralph and Mary went to Connecticut and visited three different quarries including Case Quarry.

Farmville- October 13, 2012 for amethyst.

Morefield- October 27, 2012 is a tentative date.

Montgomery County club needs five people to join their trip to the National Limestone Quarry if anyone is interested.

EDITOR: Ralph has submitted an article. We always need more!

WEBMASTER: Cheryl Simms submitted a detailed report which was added to the web page.

Haven't included the picnic yet, we need some pictures.

Suggested to add that we have an award winning web site on the web page. Suggested to add the vendor application form for the upcoming rock show to the web page.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Bob won first place in the Eastern Federation web site completion and sixth place in the American Federation completion. Congratulations!!!

The date for the Christmas party will be **Thursday December 13, 2012** and the party will be held at the Nature Center.

AJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 for refreshments provided by Anna Baden, followed by a presentation by Ralph Gamba called No Matter What Shape (your crystal has) The Crystal System.

Dinosaur Park in Laurel, Maryland

By Penny Masuoka

Dinosaur Park in Laurel, Maryland, is a fenced off area at the back of a business park on Mid-Atlantic Boulevard near the intersection of Contee Road and Route 1. The park is open to the public on the first and third Saturdays of every month from noon to 4 PM. All finds are checked by volunteer staff, and the important ones are kept by the park. Currently they will let you keep some of the common plant fossils. If they keep any of your finds, your name is recorded as the person who found it. So, if you are good at finding fossils, this could be your chance to get your name in a museum exhibit!

The park is located in the Cretaceous Arundel Clay formation which consists of gray clay, iron ore, fossil wood, and other fossils. Historically, dinosaur bones were first found in the Arundel Clay formation during iron mining activities. The iron ore, called siderite, precipitated when iron-rich ground water emerged from bedrock, flowed into swamps, and encountered "iron bacteria". Similar iron precipitating conditions exist today along the Chesapeake Bay, for example, at Calvert Cliffs State Park.

At Dinosaur Park, so far, they have found a dinosaur leg bone, dinosaur ribs, dinosaur teeth, crocodile teeth and dermal armor, turtle shells, and fossil cones from cycads (a plant that is still around today). Pictures of these finds and more information about the park and its programs (including Dinosaur Camp) can be found at these websites: <http://terpconnect.umd.edu/~gdouglas/resources/park.html> and www.dinosaurfund.org.

Ed and I visited Dinosaur Park on a rainy day in July. That gray Arundel clay is very sticky when it gets wet. We had about an inch of mud on our boots! So maybe a cool but dry day is the best time to visit. Be sure to arrive at noon to hear the orientation presentation and see some of the fossils that they have collected.

Dinosaur Park is a great place to take the kids or grandkids. Just make sure that if you are taking kids to the park, you prepare them to turn over any dinosaur fossils that they find. Ed and I were happy to take home a couple of plant fossils. These were, after all, the same plants that the dinosaurs were eating, and how cool is that?

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Dinosaur Park

CONTINUED



Search methods for fossils at Dinosaur Park include examining the ground surface and screening.

Plant fossils in iron ore from Dinosaur Park in Laurel, Maryland. Car key for scale.



A rainy day makes a lot of sticky mud at Dinosaur Park!

EFMLS Annual Meeting Report

By Sheryl Sims

Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club

SPECIAL REPORT - September 2012

EFMLS ANNUAL MEETING

September 14-16, 2012

By Sheryl E. Sims

(Photos unless otherwise indicated, by S. Sims)

Having attended the EFMLS Annual Meeting as one of the NVMC club's delegate, I wanted to report back to SMRMC on the events of the convention. I hope that you enjoy this report and will make plans to attend next year's convention. The Central PA Rock & Mineral Club did an excellent job hosting the event. Not only was everyone welcoming and friendly, but it was a great opportunity to meet our federation officers as



well as rockhounds from all over! EFMLS officers mentioned wanting increased participation and communication from federation clubs. Please read the federation newsletters, continue to make nominations for awards and competitions, and support the federation financially. Our EFMLS and AFMS officers are working hard for us. They want us to increase youth membership and educational articles/activities.

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies ("EFMLS") held its 47th Annual Mineral and Jewelry Show, and EFMLS convention on September 14-16, 2012, in Harrisburg, PA (Radisson Penn Harris Hotel, Camp Hill, PA). Hosted by the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, Inc., (David Brandon, President), clubs from all over the eastern federation gathered for a most enjoyable long-weekend.

Those wanting to participate set up their displays on Friday at the Zembo Shrine. In the meantime, others boarded a chartered bus and headed to Elizabethtown, College, Elizabethtown, PA. Members had been invited to attend the Frank Masters' reception, hosted by the college. Mr. Masters generously donated a world-class mineral collection to the geology department. As the president of a small, beautiful, college, the president and staff were ecstatic to be the recipients of such a remarkable gift.



**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND NEXT
YEAR'S CONVENTION!**

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EFMLS Annual Meeting Report

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R.J. Harris (now, former EFMLS President. Cheryl Neary is the newly elected EFMLS President) & Gerry Cox, EFMLS Secretary



Frank Masters, Donor

EFMLS President R.J. Harris addressed the group as did Mr. Masters. Viewing the collection was one of the highlights of the trip.

Afterwards, attendees headed back to the hotel to prepare for the EFMLS Annual meeting. During the meeting, various committee chairs gave their reports and high praise was given for participating in Wildacres workshops. The new EFMLS board was elected.

EFMLS ELECTION RESULTS:

President, Cheryl Neary

1st VP, Hazel Remaley

2nd VP, Merrill Dickensen

Secretary, Gerry Cox

Asst. Treasurer, Michael Patterson

Nominating Committee: Pamm Bryant & Bob Livingston

Lou Budell & Carolyn Weinberger have one more year on the Executive Board as Treasurer and Editor, respectively.



The evening proved to be the perfect time to meet and greet people that most only know from reading the EFMLS newsletter or by visiting the EFMLS website.

As pointed out by AFMS 2nd VP, Matt Charsky, the east coast mineral clubs are a part of a much larger group. We are under the umbrella of the eastern federation. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is comprised of seven organizations:

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

EFMLS - Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies

MWF - Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

NFMS - Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

RMFMS - Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies

SCFMS - South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

SFMS - Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

It's important for clubs to support the EFMLS, which supports the AFMS. Money we contribute to the various funds goes to support programs and provide scholarships to students studying/working in the field of geology. All of these points were highlighted during the annual meeting. (Keep an eye out for a copy of committee reports and minutes as provided by EFMLS Secretary, Gerry Cox, on the EFMLS website. Or, contact Gerry at gerryannec@verizon.net for a copy of the packet by November 1.)

Following the meeting, we gathered in EFMLS President, R.J. Harris' suite for refreshments and a relaxing time to socialize with other EFMLS members. We had a great time!

On Saturday, Sept. 15, final exhibit preparations took place at the Zembo Shrine, followed by a wonderful mineral show and EFMLS Endowment Fund auction. This year's show

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EFMLS Annual Report

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theme was, "Crystals: Flowers of the Mineral Kingdom". Activities included the EFMLS Endowment Fund Auction, displays, rock wheel, silent auction, mini mine, Scouts, Jeri Jones Lectures, rocks, gems, fossils, and free posters.

Later that evening, we attended the EFMLS Awards Banquet. We participated in a social hour and enjoyed a delicious dinner of salmon, beef, chicken, and veggies. Some EFMLS club member winners who you may know are:

- **Barbara Sky:** won a trophy for her pyrite display. All specimens in her display were under one inch in size, which the thumb nail category, <bskysky@aol.com>.
- **Bob Davidson:** won the EFMLS web site competition and ranked 6th for the AFMS Web Site Contest (SMRMC). EFMLS has 17 entries!
- **Cynthia Payne:** was named MSDC Rockhound of the year.
- **Erich Grundel:** won ninth place for an original educational article and ninth place for a non-technical article.
- **Joe Murter:** was named one of the *AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year* for the Eastern Federation (by the NVMC).
- **Kathy Hrechka:** won honorable mention, along with her children, Julia and Michael for their article in *The Mineral Mite*. Kathy also won an honorable mention certificate for her Fred Schaefermeyer article.
- **Mary Bateman:** received a certificate of appreciation for serving as a BEAC judge.
- **Matt Charsky:** received a certificate of appreciation for serving as a BEAC judge.
- **Patrick Haynes:** won first place for an original education article.
- **Sheryl Sims:** won a silver medal in the *AFMS All American Club Award – "Year Book"* competition (NVMC); second and seventh place for original educational articles in the EFMLS bulletin contest; and eighth place in the AFMS bulletin contest.

Awards were presented by Barbara Sky: Competitive Exhibits; Hazel Remaley, Each One Teach One; Reivan Zeleznik, AFMS Scholarship Award; Betsy Oberheim, All American Award; Eller y Borow, club Rockhound of the Year; Fran Sick; Easter Foundation Fund; R.J. Harris & David Brandon, CPRM Special Club Awards.

The guest speaker for the evening was Robert Beard, Senior Contributing Editor, "Rock & Gem" magazine.



Following the award ceremony and dinner, attendees retreated to their rooms to prepare for the Editors and Webmasters Breakfast on Sunday 16th. After a breakfast buffet, awards were presented.

Following the breakfast, some participants headed for a field trip to Mount Pleasant Mills Quarry in search of wavelite, calcite, fluorite, and gastropods. The field trip leader was R.J. Harris. Others returned for another fun day at the mineral show or prepared to return home.



Frank Masters and Elizabethtown College President, Carl J. Strikwerda, Ph.D.



(photo: Central PA Rock & Mineral Club Newsletter, Bev Eisenscher)

Goin' Back: Collecting in Connecticut

By Ralph Gamba

Carol King and Jerry Goffin, in their song “Goin’ Back” starts “I think I’m goin’ back to the things I learned so well in my youth.” As a youth, I collected in the Walden Gem Mine in Portland Connecticut. It is there where I first learned about cleavelandite, lepidolite, tourmaline (black, green and red), columbite and beryl. Alas, the Walden Gem Mine is no more.

When planning our trip to Massachusetts, Mary and I researched collecting in Connecticut. Write-ups on the Lapidary and Mineral Society of Central Connecticut (lmscc) listed three quarries that allowed collecting for personal use and educational purposes with permission from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The collecting places are the Case Quarry in Portland, the Clark Hill Quarries in East Hampton, and the CCC Quarry in Had-dam. Time was nearing for the trip, so we rushed our application to collect. A very quick response from Ms. Margaret Thomas, the State Geologist, allowed us to collect on Monday and Tuesday, September 3 and 4. Ms. Thomas was kind enough to email the permission letter because there was not enough time to send the letter in the mail. The letter listed the rules for collecting and warned that we could encounter the state protected timber rattlesnake.

Based on weather forecast, we chose Labor Day, September 3. Our goal was to collect at all three quarries to see if an extended stay at one would be warranted. I also wanted to compare the Case Quarry minerals to what I remember from the Walden Gem Mine. In 2001, we obtained a flat of Walden Gem Mine specimens from the Northern Berkshire Mineral Club rock show. We wanted to compare the Walden samples with the Case Quarry minerals.

The weather was beautiful for collecting so we took the one and one half hour trip from Lenox, MA to Portland, CT to collect at the Case Quarry. Case Quarry is a microcline (perthite – microcline with albite) and quartz pegmatite containing beryl, schorl, spessartine and columbite. Monazite-Ce, the rare mineral petscheckite ($UFe(Nb,Ta)_2O_8$ only the third discovery world-wide), bismuth minerals and cordierite have been reported¹. Mindat lists 33 valid minerals². Many people have studied Case Quarry including Bob Jones, the Senior Consulting Editor of Rock and Gem Magazine, who wrote his master’s thesis entitled “Luminescent Minerals of Connecticut”³.

We followed the directions we found on the web. We parked on Cotton Hill Road in the Meshomasic State Forest and walked up the hill on the path adjacent to the power lines, Figure 1. On the walk, we could hear the crackling of the electricity from the overhead lines. The literature stated that there are four quarries, but we found only one quarry and the dumps. We scoured the dumps and the Quarry, Figure 2, and Ralph quickly found a small beryl, Figure 3. Mary soon found a green beryl. Ralph also found some brown mica, very reminiscent of zinnwaldite from Morefield. Mindat does not list a zinnwaldite occurrence at Case Quarry. Ralph also found a small muscovite book, pink feldspar, more small beryl, and spessartine. He also found a micro (.79mm) iridescent columbite, Figure 4. Preliminary examination shows some fluorescence, especially the pink feldspar, which fluoresced green under shortwave UV. Other samples had small areas of green and yellow fluorescence.

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Goin' Back: Collecting in Connecticut

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Figure 1. Path to Case Quarry



Figure 2. Case Quarry



Figure 3. Beryl from Case Quarry

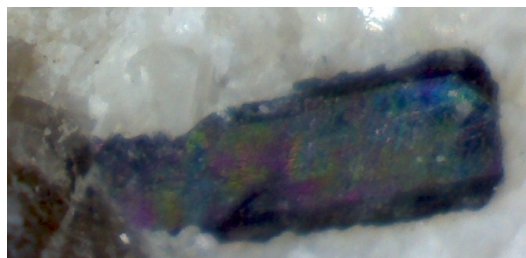


Figure 4. Columbite from Case Quarry
(.79mm long)

Compared to the Walden Gem Mine, the pegmatite at Walden was mostly cleavelandite, where Case has mostly microcline. We did not find any of the tourmaline or lepidolite which was common at Walden.

After lunch, we headed to the second collecting spot, the Clark Hill quarries in East Hampton, CT. The Clark Hill Quarries consist of two collecting spots, the Nathan Hall Quarry and the State Forest Quarry #1. We first arrived at Clark Hill Road in East Hamden because Ralph selected the wrong town. Fortunately, East Hampton was only about 15 minutes away. The directions from the internet listed a Woodchopper's Road, but there was no Woodchopper's Road listed as we traveled Clark Hill Road in East Hampton. A local provided directions and as we arrived, the road was labeled Gadpouch Road. We searched hiking paths off of Gadpouch Road and finally found the Nathan Hall Quarry, Figure 5.

At the Hall Quarry, the dumps had a large quantity of black tourmaline, schorl. Most could be considered massive schorl, but the dumps had partial crystals of schorl, Figure 6. We collected samples of the schorl along with mica. One mica sample had muscovite on the outside and dark mica on the inside. The literature identifies the



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Goin' Back: Collecting in Connecticut

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dark mica as annite, a member of the biotite – phlogopite series⁴. The quarry had massive schorl in the pegmatite.

Seeing it was late in the day – collecting had to be ended by 4 PM - we packed our specimens and left. We did not have time to collect at the State Forest Quarry or the CCC Quarry. Fortunately, we did not encounter any timber rattlesnakes.

On September 9, we visited the Northern Berkshire Mineral Club rock show. One vendor had Connecticut minerals from an old collection. We obtained beryl, both yellow and blue from the State Forest Quarry, Figure 7. We also obtained a clear, gemmy sample of an unknown from the State Forest Quarry. The sample is harder than quartz. It could be clear beryl (goshenite) or topaz. In addition, we obtained a sample from the Strickland Quarry in Portland, CT, now an 18 hole golf course⁵. The sample had whitish beryl in albite. The albite was the variety cleavelandite, more like the samples from the Walden Gem Mine. The vendor had a sample of blue – green cleavelandite, very similar to the cleavelandite at Morefield. We purchased a sample of amazonite and a beryl crystal from Blandford, MA.



Figure 6. Schorl from Hall Quarry



Figure 7. Beryl from the State Forest Quarry

We had a great time collecting at the Quarries. Case Quarry does still have beryl, but they are small. The Nathan Hall Quarry has plenty of schorl for the collecting. We would recommend visiting the Nathan Hall Quarry and State Hall Quarry #1 first if you only have time to collect at one place.

1. www.lmscc.org/case.htm
2. www.mindat.org/loc-6792.html
3. Jones, Bob, On the Rocks, Rock and Gem Magazine, Volume 42, Number 08, August 2012 page 72.
4. www.lmscc.org/clark_hill.htm



ROCKTALK

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

Next Meeting
November 27, 2012
7:00 PM

We're on the web:

SMRMC.org

November's
Refreshments/
Programs

December's Annual Holiday Party

Will be Thursday, December 13th

At 6:00 pm

At Clearwater Nature Center

Bring:

A dish to pass

A gift for the gift
exchange!

Program and Refreshments: Tim Foard

Field Trips

Date	Place	Leader
January 12	James Madison University	Ralph Gamba

Note: A number of people expressed interest in fossil hunting in December. If someone volunteers to be trip leader, I will set the trip.