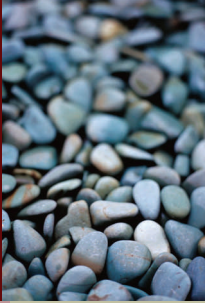


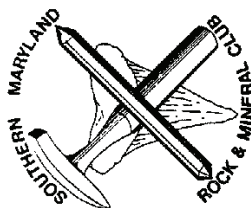
May 2013



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



Rock Talk



Message from the President

Rich Simcsak

Enthusiasm. Something we all have and at different levels now, with our love for the earth's beautiful rocks and minerals. We saw enthusiasm at its greatest at the last meeting with the cracking of geodes by a few of the new, younger club members. They were on top of each newly cracked geode, enjoying each new found crystal and design mother nature made for us to enjoy. We all saw a little of them in us when we all started this hobby, or addiction for some of us. If we could just bottle that enthusiasm and energy they have. Wow! I ask everyone to keep that enthusiasm going year round by sharing this love we all have for the earth's beauty in her minerals and gems. Enthusiasm

is infectious and spreads rapidly. I hope to see people sharing their love of the hobby at some of the great chances we have to collect many different samples at multiple locations in the spring and summer months. There are still many beautiful stones to be found. Once found, we are all challenged to find one a bit better and this enthusiasm brings out the pride we have in what we all do! Keep cracking them rocks! See you all after Memorial Day!

AFMS Scholarship Donation

To the Worthington Family, April 26, 2013

A generous donation was made by the Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation in memory of Alva Worthington. Their contribution will be used to help students further their studies.

"Alva Worthington was an enthusiastic rockhound and an active club member from the very inception of our club over 20 years ago until recently

when her husband of 65 years, Jack, passed away. She and Jack supported the club in many ways and she always helped Jack. When he was Club President, she was Club Secretary. Jack, with Alva's help, chaired our first Rock Show in 1992. Whenever Jack had a table at our Rock Show, Alva was right there beside him. When Jack went collecting on a field trip, Alva went to help him

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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: (301) 297-4575.

EFMLS/AFMS News



The EFMLS Newsletter this month has advice on how to make collecting boring, a list of teachers and Wildacres classes for September, AFMS Scholarship Foundation News, FAQs about meteorites on public lands, some EFMLS history, and much more. Visit www.amfed.org/efmls



This month in AFMS news: having fun with junior activities, Endowment Fund News, Spring cleaning hazards to avoid, AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year, thinking about what to do with your specimens and other valuables after you're gone, the AFMS Code of Ethics, and more. For more information, visit www.amfed.org.

Upcoming Shows and Events

18-19 May, 2013: Leesport, Pennsylvania

45th Annual World of Gems and Minerals: Jewelry, Bead, Mineral and Fossil Show Organized by: Berks Mineralogical Society
Leesport Farmer's Market (Route 61)

25 May 2013: Towson Maryland

Organized by: Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Club
at the Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Road, Towson, MD
Saturday, 10-4.

November 23 & 24, 2013: Fairfax, Virginia

22nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club - www.novamineralclub.org & and the GMU Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences

George Mason University, Fairfax Virginia at The Hub (former Student Union Bldg II) GMU Campus is located at the intersection of Rte 123 & Braddock Road, Fairfax, Virginia Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Teens (13-17) \$3. FREE - Children (12 & under), Scouts in uniform, GMU Students w/valid ID. Parking: On campus use GMU's parking Lot A (for Handicap Parking follow our van back from Lot A) Enter Lot A from Nottaway River Lane off Braddock Road Courtesy shuttle.

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:
Richard Simcsak

VICE PRESIDENT (membership):
Polly Zimmerman

VICE PRESIDENT (Programs):
Penny Masuoka

VICE PRESIDENT (Field Trips):
Jim White

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Christine Proctor

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Cheryl Reese

EDITOR
Michael Patterson

WEBMASTER
Bob Davidson

EFMLS Representative
Carl Miller

***If corrections or additions are needed, please contact *Rock Talk* Editor

***Cover Photo Courtesy of
Microsoft Office***

April Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: April 23, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

TREASURER: N/A

MEMBERSHIP: Who needs a roster, officers or everyone? Lapidary, everyone gets a roster. What's the best way to send it? It's very useful for trip leaders to contact, organize, and set up car-pooling.

Suggestion: remove contact information for people who opt out, phone numbers or not, no address, etc. Maybe officers can have everybody's name and number while the rest of the group gets a limited list. Polly will come up with a revised list, email her or let her know if you want to opt out.

PROGRAMS: May- Polly and Carol for refreshment, program TBD.

November and December meeting dates: November 19th, the third Tuesday.

December 5th, the first Thursday. Polly will email the invite and sign up sheet for potluck.

FIELD TRIPS:

Northern VA club combined trips, West VA and PA for fossils.

Montgomery County club is interested in the Vulcan Quarry.

April 27, 2013-Sterling Hill, fluorescent minerals, show in Franklin on the 28th.

May 12-17, 2013-Herkimer NY.

May 31- June 4, 2013- Marion KY, Eureka Fluorite.

June 1-2, 2013- Benny Clement Mineral Museum. \$25.00 per person, 3-4 mines.

September 3-13, 10 days in Utah. Delta, Topaz Mountain, Agate Hill, Milford- obsidian, Dugway-geodes.

EDITOR: Newsletter sent out today; get things in earlier-May 15th.

WEBMASTER: Three trips on the website so far.

Trip leaders send in trip reports to Bob and Michael for the website and newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS: somd.com- advertize the club, utilize the free advertizing.

Polly-wear our name tags, it helps the new people learn names. Need to order name tags from Awards Plus, \$7.00, 10 days, Michael will start a list. Stickers for hard hats, patches, etc.

American Mineralogical Society/ Eastern Federation/Lynchburg- good newsletters to look at for ideas. Joe led a trip with another club to a lead mine and will do a trip report.

AJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:48.

AFMS Scholarship Foundation

(Continued from page 1)

clean his specimens. They went rockhounding together in many locations in the USA—sometimes participating in Elderhostel trips that involved rockhounding or while visiting one of their 7 children, 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Alva was a fine lady and we are proud to make this Memorial Gift in her honor.”

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation is very honored to receive this donation in Alva Worthington's name. In her memory, many students will be given the opportunity to pursue their education through the Scholarship Fund. We extend our sincerest condolences to you and your family.

Rita Bartenback

EFMLS Scholarship Coordinator

Thank you, Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

Thank you very much for the generous donation to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation in memory of Alva Worthington. Your contribution of \$60.00 will be used to help students further their studies. Your kindness and support is very much appreciated.

Rita Bartenback, EFMLS Scholarship Coordinator

Field Trip Report: Big Pyrite Crystals from Glendon, NC

May 4, 2013

by Dave Lines

Every year for the past four years the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies (SFMS) invites member clubs to an annual Dixie Mineral Council Trip to the Standard Mineral Company pyrophyllite (pronounced pie-rof-fi-lite) mine near Glendon in Moore County, North Carolina. Since I am also a member of the Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, Virginia, which is a member of the SFMS, this trip is always a “possibility”—a “possibility” since everyone who attends must be quick enough and lucky enough to be among the first 120 people to send in an email as soon as the trip is announced in March.

This year I was the 41st eligible person to be accepted—a real



biggie because this is a highly sought after trip with rockhounds attending from all over the Southeast. In fact, people from all over the United States join clubs in the SFMS just to be eligible for this special trip. Last year, a couple from as far away as Alaska par-



ticipated.

Glendon is located about 50 miles southwest of Raleigh—or about 330 miles from the Clearwater Nature Center. Yes, it is a long way, but the speed limit on nearly all the highways along the way is 70 mph.

The weather for the dig on May 4th was perfect this year—60 degrees and cloudy with a cool northeast breeze. People started arriving at the gate about 7 a.m. I was the 3rd person there at 7:15 and I knew one of the other arrivals—Bernard, from the Lynchburg Club. Bernard is a great rockhound and always does well on every field trip. He has currently been doing a lot of gold panning in Virginia across the road from Willis Mountain with the Central Virginia Gold Prospectors and he showed me a small vial about 1/3 full of small gold “pickers”. I tried to buy the vial or at least some of the nuggets, but he would not sell—this time. I’ll keep trying.

By 8 a.m., it looked like everyone had arrived and shortly afterward, we had a safety brief by one of the two mine employees.

Then we were on our way across the open pit mine. Although some folks choose each year to concentrate on the beautiful blue and purple fluorite micros found in small vugs inside massive quartz boulders, most folks look for the pyrite crystals. Many of the attendees are veterans, but some are first timers. I met a couple of



these newbies before the safety briefing and told them to follow me.

The pyrophyllite at Glendon is in layers which trend down about 45 degrees. In parts of this deposit, the pyrophyllite contains beautiful, well formed cubic crystals of pyrite which range from tiny up to 6 inches across. It

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seems that the smaller crystals are found closer to the surface, while the larger ones are deeper (and more difficult to reach). Some of the pyrophyllite matrix is very soft and some almost as hard as the dolomite at Herkimer.

Since I already knew that this year I was going to dig in the same area where I had been last Spring—where the matrix was the softer variety—I had pre-selected about a dozen tools that had been the most useful last time. This list is worth keeping until you can attend this trip. My tools were safety glasses, a foam rubber knee pad, work gloves, a 3 pound hammer, a 3-inch wide thin splitting chisel (to split the layers of matrix), a 10 pound sledge hammer (to make the job of driving chisels in easier), 3 foot crow bar (to pry off big chunks of matrix which have splitting chisel driven in), stiff brush (to brush off the face of each layer to check for crystals), small pick (to remove



matrix), Army shovel (to remove loose matrix/overburden), jack hammer chisel with pointed tip (for quickly breaking apart and removing matrix areas) and a small 1/2-inch wide chisel (for more delicate matrix removal around a large crystal) plus a few

5 gallon plastic buckets.

On the other side of the mine—basically, a large shallow, open pit—I told these new folks where to start digging and how. And before long, we all started to find crystals as we dug into the matrix. And also before long, they were sharing some of my tools — after all, I could use only one or two tools at a time.

As an aside, it is possible to find lots of pyrite simply by surface collecting where the rain has washed off the crystals. One gentleman picked up 40 pounds of nice sized crystals this way. The drawback, of course, is that these loose crystals tend to be more damaged and more weathered. A good metal detector is another way to successfully find pyrite crystals. And I witnessed several people doing so.

I dug in 2 areas about 10 feet apart. The first area had mostly small crystals from 1/8th inch to about 1 inch. I collected about 1/3 of a bucket of crystals both loose and in matrix. After digging there

(Continued on page 6)



for 2 hours, I had enough little ones and gave the spot to another fellow who had been watching me. He and two others continued to dig that spot for the rest of the day.

Meanwhile, I moved a little farther down hill to an unclaimed spot between two holes left from some previous diggers (probably from last Fall on the MAGMA trip). Since the matrix layers were dipping down away from me, my first task was to dig a trench straight down about 3 feet out in front and parallel to me. It took me a couple of hours to clear out that matrix. I found some good crystals along the way, but my intent was to create an open area, so when I split the layers, they would break off cleanly in larger pieces. By noon, this approach started paying off well as I dug deeper and began to consistently find larger crystals up to 2 inches on a side. I also found a layer that contained a great deal of massive quartz interspersed with pyrite crystals. The material is pretty, but impossible to separate out the crystals—maybe it will cab.

Anyway, as the afternoon progressed, I collected several nicer crystals. My best was actually two which appear to be a penetrating twin. One was $3\frac{3}{4}$ inch on the longest side and about 2 inches thick and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. The other was about $2'' \times 2'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$. Both are still in matrix with just enough matrix removed to show the crystals.

About 2:30 p.m. Bernard stopped by to see how I was doing and gave me an 8 inch chunk of white quartz with some purple fluorite showing. Later, at home, I cleaned off that specimen with the garden hose and found some small vugs lined with quartz crystals, one of which contained a nice $\frac{1}{4}$ inch purple fluorite crystal. Thanks, Bernard.

All together, I collected about 3 buckets of material and left the mine by 3 p.m. and was home by 8 pm—a tired, but happy rockhound.

A Little Good News

by Jim White

It's a sad and all too familiar story, collecting locations closed to rock hounds. So when I heard that an old location that had been closed might re-open my enthusiasm was tempered with skepticism. I had never seen it happen before so I thought "just wishful thinking". I'm happy to say, I was wrong. Due to the efforts of Sam Linton, a member of the Montgomery County rock club, Medford Quarry has been re-opened to collectors. I went along, in my capacity as SMRMC Field Trip Chairman, on May 8 on the first trip that any club has been on in....well, no one present could remember exactly when it was closed to clubs. The consensus was "about 6 or 7 years"

It had rained fairly heavily the night before and I was somewhat concerned on my drive to the quarry because it looked like we might be in for an encore. Low, dark gray clouds were in front of me the whole way. I arrived about a half hour early and found there were already six or seven other people waiting at the gate. While we talked our numbers grew. By the time the quarry representative showed up to let us in we had a pretty good crowd. I had been told that the number of people would be limited to 25. I think they were all there before 10:00, the time we were supposed to start. We had a safety equipment check, VERY strict, including long pants, hard hat, steel-toed boots, goggles (to be worn at ALL times) and safety vests. Medford is very proud of its safety record, decades without a lost time accident, and they want to keep it that way.

After a safety briefing the quarry representative informed us that the previous night's rain has made the roads very muddy. The road into the #2 pit was impassable, he had almost gotten stuck in his 4 wheel-drive truck. And the road to the #1 pit was also bad, so we were limited to the #1 pit and would have to go in 4-wheel drive vehicles. These were in short supply so we had to shuttle. And leave some of our equipment behind. I opted to take my hammers and chisels and left my UV equipment behind (and, unfortunately, my camera). Bad decision. I don't think anyone found anything to hammer on. Vugs seemed to be non-existent. As far as I was able to determine only two crystal specimens were found in the pit that day. The popular opinion was that they were Aragonite, sprays of short ($\frac{1}{4}''$ - $\frac{3}{8}''$ long) needles, one white the other black. On the other hand, the two collectors who had their UV stuff were finding some very interesting specimens. Live and learn, next time bring the truck so I can have all my equipment.

After the majority became discouraged with the pit we went out of the quarry and collected in a pile of rock that had been removed from another area. Here we found some oddly shaped Calcite crystals. Some were over an inch and a half long and nearly as wide. Not particularly well formed but I was told that they would fluoresce a pale blue and phosphoresce for awhile after the light was removed. We spent an hour or so hammering on these boulders and collecting the crystals, which, for the most part fell off of the rock they had been attached to. I was later disappointed to discover that while both claims were true it was a VERY faint glow. Well, better luck next time.

Valley Quarry, Gettysburg, PA

by Jim White

On May 4, Tim Foard and I met at the gate of the Valley Quarry in Gettysburg Pa. to accompany members of the Montgomery County club on a combined collecting trip. Neither of us had been there before. I had been told the quarry contained zeolites and Epidote and other minerals, most of which were usually found as micros. By the time the quarry representative came to let us in only one other rock hound had showed up. We went in and went to the office and filled out waivers and by then a couple of other collectors had arrived. In fact, ALL the other collectors had arrived. Yes, there was a grand total of five of us. Well, at least we wouldn't be crowded. We had a little safety talk, dotted the i's and crossed the t's on our waivers and followed the rep to the spot where they had fired the most recent shot, which I think he said was earlier in the week. We began finding what our trip leader identified as Stilbite almost immediately. In this quarry it takes a radiating form, about 1/2"-3/4" circles, only in white. After awhile we also found some Epidote micros, a nice green color but not very impressive without magnification. Also a few blue-green spots were seen here and there. Apparently there is Copper present, just barely

After collecting some Stilbite, I wanted to see if there was a little more variety to this quarry, so I went down to the bottom of the pit to see if I could find something different. I found some more Epidote, and some mud, but that was all.

Well, we had nice weather for it and the Stilbite is nice. Maybe Tim found better micros.



National Limestone Quarries, PA

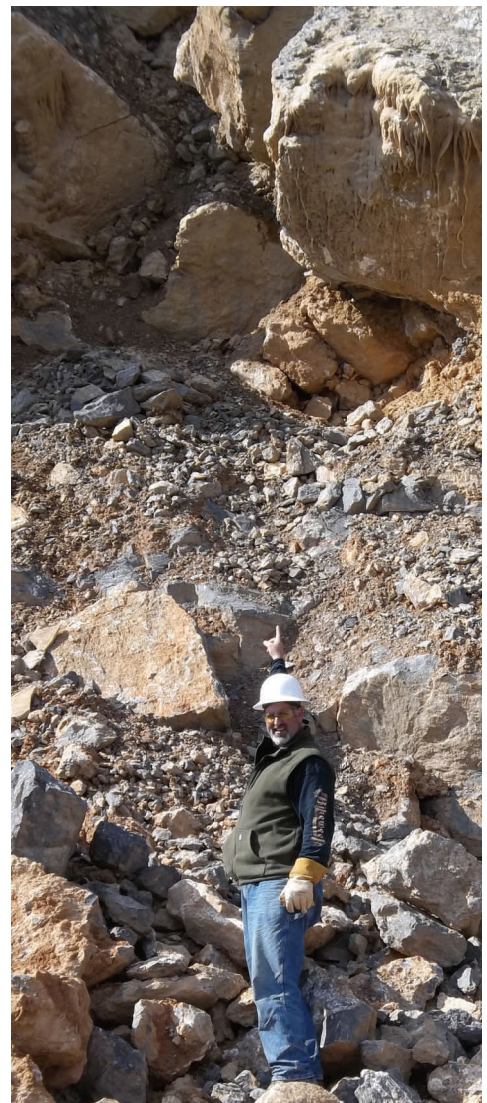
by Tina League

On April 13, 2013 SMRMC members Jim, Joe, Paula, Ralph B., Ralph G., Mary, Harry and Tina were guests of a joint club trip to National Limestone Quarry, PA.

At 8:30 a.m. over a dozen rock-hounds gathered in owner Eric's office at the Mt. Pleasant Mills site for a safety briefing for our bodies and souls.

After the meeting we all followed Eric down to the calcite/strontianite collecting area. Everyone spent several hours collecting in this area. Clusters of small, clear calcite crystals were plentiful in the newly blasted section. Only a few large double terminated xls were found. Several members of the other clubs headed up to the wavellite area.

Around noon we all headed to the Middleburg quarry to collect fluorite and flowstone. There were some very impressive flowstone formations at this site. There were also an abundance of fluorite veins



running through the quarry floor. Many dark purple fluorite plates were collected along with a few actual (small) cubes. By late afternoon we had filled our cars and trucks with an assortment of goodies from the quarries and headed on to town for an early dinner before the long ride home.



Sterling Hill Super Dig and Franklin Gem & Mineral Show, 2013

by Tina League

On April 27, 2013 SMRMC members Jim, Jeff, Joyce, Joe, Paula, Gary, Cindy, Harry and Tina attended the Sterling Hill Mine Super Dig in Ogdensburg, NJ. The weather was perfect—70's and sunny. We were there to collect fluorescent mineral specimens from this famous location. The dig was well organized and had a variety of tours and even a sale to keep eve-

ryone entertained for the long day and night. There were well over 300 people in attendance. The daytime collecting was aided by several "dark rooms" and "dark tents" with uv lights to examine our finds during the sunlit hours. After dark the collecting areas were lit up with hundreds of individual UV lights carried around by the excited "trick-or-treaters". The tours of the mines and the museum were very informative and interesting. On the upper mine tour we were able to obtain "piece of history" specimens from the ore mine's conveyor belt that have been sitting there since the mine was shut down for operations in 1986—very cool! There were lots of

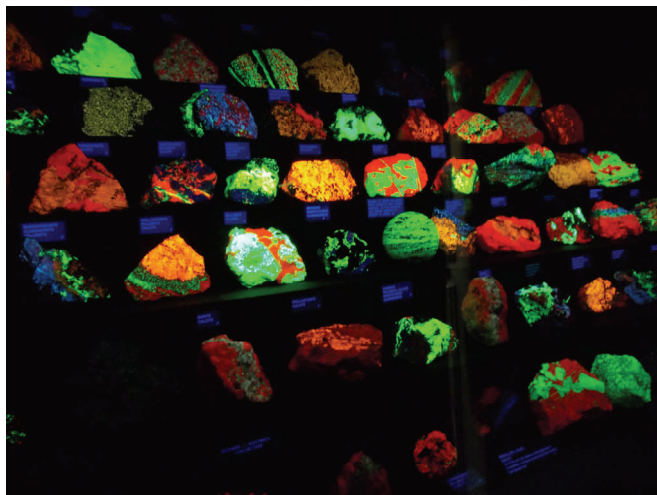


door prizes and the grand finale lighting of "the wall" during the evening dig was impressive.

On April 28, 2013 we attended the Gem & Mineral Show in Franklin, NJ, which is a "stone's throw" from Ogdensburg. There was a huge variety of beautiful gems, minerals and jewelry to purchase. We spent several hours at the show and then headed home with lighter wallets and heavier cars. A

very fun weekend was had by all.

Upcoming trips: Kentucky trip May 31-June 4—Collecting Fluorite at Eureka Prospect, Marion and Geodes in Stanford area. Utah trip: September 3-September 13. Various collecting areas. Staying in Delta. I am trip leader and point of contact for these trips, if any members are interesting in going or need more info., email me at Htleague@comcast.net.



Field Trip Notes

By Jim White

We have been invited by the Northern Va. club to go on a combined trip with them to the National Limestone Quarries in Mt. Pleasant Mills and Middleburg, Pa. on June 1, 2013, from 9AM until 1 or 2 PM. Then, there is a tentative plan to go to a fossil collecting site, either Suedesburg (brachiopods, bryozoans, and maybe crinoids and trilobites) or St. Clair (fossil ferns). To be determined at a later time—probably about 5 minutes before leaving the National Limestone quarry. As most of you know these quarries contain Calcite, Wavellite, Strontianite, Fluorite, flow stone (which fluoresces a pale yellow), some other minerals and some fossils (mostly brachiopods and gastropods, but other things have been found). Strontianite is best found by breaking rocks (take a big sledge hammer). Wavellite is best found by wetting likely looking specimens (take a bucket so you can haul water to the pit). Hammers, chisels, and all other regular collecting tools and packing materials recommended. All standard safety equipment required, hard hats, steel-toed boots, goggles and gloves. The owner of the quarries collects rocks and gifts of labeled specimens are appreciated, as are tumbled rocks for his grandchildren. If

you're interested or would like more details, please let me know.

The Lapidary Club

By Bob Davidson

Eight members attended the April 28th meeting. Our project was to make a wire wrapped pendant from a stone we had previously cut. The pattern we used is called the "Woven Bail Cabochon Pendant". It was published in the Wire Artist magazine in January 2005.



*Woven Bail Cabochon Pendant
Wire Artist magazine, Jan. 2005*



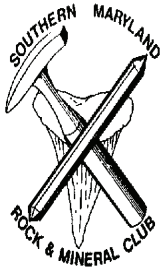
The one above was made by Alicia Tarr.



Since none of us are wire wrapping experts we just grouped our tables together and followed the directions from the magazine, helping each other as we could.

Everyone did a pretty good job so we decided to do another wire wrapping project at our May meeting. This time we will be doing an easier pattern following instructions from a YouTube video. The Club now has 34 members.





ROCKTALK

Clearwater Nature Center
Maryland-National Capital Park &
Planning Commission
11000 Thrift Road
Clinton, MD 20735
301-297-4575

We're on the web:
SMRMC.org

Next Meeting:
May 28, 2013
7:00 PM

May
**Refreshments/
Programs**

Refreshments:

Polly Zimmerman and Carole
Raucheisen

Program:

"The Geology of Willis Mountain,
Virginia," by Penny Masuoka