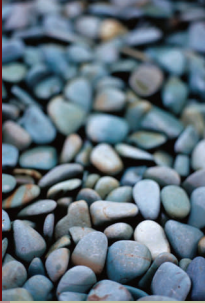


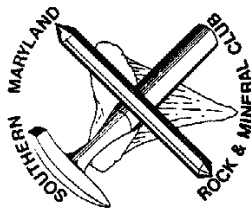
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



Rock Talk



Message from the President

Rich Simcsak

Our annual show will be on Saturday, March 8, 2014—now the only one day—on the arena floor at The Show Place Arena. We will begin setup starting Friday afternoon to make it easy for all to start at 10:00 on Saturday. This year's show will be our largest and most exciting. We as a club need to expand our thinking for advertising to bring in the public, to maximize the dealer tables in the area, and have maximum table participation from the rock and mineral club and our sister club, the lapidary club. Bringing all of these people together can show those who attend this show, the fun we have with our hobbies and how some imagination can create beautiful results and how Mother Earth

makes creations like no other.

I know that this club will show the effort to the visiting community that we can produce a quality show. Thanks to all in advance for putting together this show!



Constitution and By-Laws of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

Article 2: Purpose

The purpose of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club is:

1. To stimulate interest in the earth sciences and hobbies associated with rocks and minerals, fossils and lapidary arts.
2. To encourage and work for improvement

in the art of gem cutting and making jewelry.

3. To provide members with opportunities to collect and identify rocks, minerals, and fossils.

4. To provide opportunities for fellowship among members and with other clubs and societies having similar aims and interests.

Inside this issue:

Message from the President	1
EFMLS/AFMS News & Upcoming Shows	2
Meeting Minutes	3-4
Field Trip Report from Ruggles Mine, Grafton New Hampshire	5-7
New look for SMRMC Web site	8

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

Submitted by Michael Patterson



The EFMLS Newsletter this month has an introductory note from new President Hazel Remaley, a message from Past-President Cheryl Neary, 'The Manual' for rockhounds and its safety implications, AFMS recognition awards for EFMLS Clubs, an EFMLS insurance update, and a 2013 Wildacres recap. For more information on any of these articles, visit www.amfed.org/efmls



This month in AFMS news, you will find a message from the president, the AFMS Recognition Award, AFMS program competition results, information on field trips for juniors where the focus is on knowledge, rather than collecting, and an article about doing the right thing when it comes to safety. For more information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

October 25-27: Harrisonburg, VA, 11th Annual Harrisonburg Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Location: Rockingham County Fairgrounds-Commercial Exhibits Building, 4808 South Valley Pike, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801. (On US Route 11, 1/2 mile south of Harrisonburg, VA, Off I-81 between Exits 240 & 243) Hours: Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM & Sunday 11 AM to 5 PM. <http://www.toteshows.com/harrisonburg.html>

November 2-3: Exton, PA, 44th Annual "Gemarama 2013: Shades of Red" sponsored by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. The School at Church Farm, Business Rte. 30, 1 / 2 mile west of Frazer Rte 30 exit off Rte. 202, Exton, PA. Saturday, November 2, 10am - 6pm; Sunday November 3, 10am - 5pm.

November 23-24: Fairfax, VA, 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) 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 Not-taway 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.

SMRMC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Richard Simcsak

VICE PRESIDENT (membership):
Polly Zimmerman

VICE PRESIDENT (Programs):
Penny Masuoka

VICE PRESIDENT (Field Trips):
Jim White

SECRETARY:
Christine Proctor

LIAISON/Youth Coordinator:
Michael Patterson
(301) 297-4575
michael.patterson@pgparks.com

TREASURER
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

September Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: September 24, 2013

SECRETARY: Minutes approved.

MEMBERSHIP: Three new people joined the Lapidary and Rock Clubs. We have guests Barabra and Carole from the Archeological group in Charles County. Also Jonathan and Janet.

PROGRAMS: Tonight's program is by Tim Foard. The Amateur Paleontologists Guide to Thin Sections.

Tonight's refreshments are by Ralph and Mary.

Next month Gary Lohman will be speaking and Tim will have refreshments.

1st week in November Gary is traveling to Phoneix. Any suggestions for him?

October 5th and 6th at Friendship Antiques—miocene fossil talks. Route 2 towards the Herington Harbor.

FIELD TRIPS:

Willis Mountain this Saturday. Two people have signed up combined with Montgomery County and maybe West Virginia. Chalks for vehicle tires and safety equipment required.

October 5th-National Limestone

Denver Quarry in two weeks.

US Silica maybe October 5th, need to double check the date. Hanover County Montpelier VA.

Dave went to Richmond on the 14th and collected rutile, silver flash moonstone, and garnets.

Ralph and Mary went to Grafton New Hampshire and collected dendrites, rose quartz, micas, and feldspar.

EDITOR: NA

WEBMASTER: It has a new look. The Rock and Lapidary Clubs head down separate paths on the site.

OLD BUSINESS: March 8th only for the Rock Show.

Friday set up option, maybe look for a new two

day spot.

Concessions will be open.

Suggested to charge vendors by space instead of price per table.

Must have overnight security.

Suggested: table price step downs.

Admission prices, consider if children under 6 are free and scouts in uniforms, or not .

NEW BUSINESS: November 19th, Denise Nelson, African Diamond Mines.

AJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

New Travel Channel Series *Gem Hunt*

In a new series on the Travel Channel, Gem dealer Ron LeBlanc, jewelry expert Diane Robinson and geologist Bernie Gaboury scour some of the most remote regions of the globe in search of gemstones. Here's the schedule of programs if you would like to tune in.

Gem Hunt this week

Premiere:



Tue Oct 22, 10/9c

Gem Hunt
Tanzanite - Tanzania

Previously aired Oct 15:



Thu Oct 24, 10/9c

Gem Hunt
Rubies - Vietnam

Premiere:



Tue Oct 29, 10/9c

Gem Hunt
Imperial Topaz and Aquamarine - Brazil

July Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: July 23, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

TREASURER: No change

SECRETARY: Minutes approved.

MEMBERSHIP: Currently at 69 members.

PROGRAMS: Next month will be the auction and potluck at 6:00pm. We have programs up until October but we still need one for November. 10% of the auction money you receive will go to the club. Tonight's refreshments are provided by Harry, Tina, Penny, and Joe.

FIELD TRIPS:

There is a possible field trip in late September that we will discuss at the next meeting. The Montgomery County Club has a trip to Churchville this weekend, two people are going.

September 3-13, 10 days in Utah. Tina sent out the schedule to the people that signed up.

October- Mt. Ida crystal dig. Not on the chamber of commerce site yet.

EDITOR: Newsletter out at 6:00 pm today.

WEBMASTER: Interactive map of field trip sites, what to collect, website connections, ability to zoom in and see pictures. Suggested, maybe not put the private locations, just the public spots.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Rock Show-March 8th and 9th in the main arena and is approximately \$8000.00. A letter needs to be prepared to justify the cost reduction based on the benefit of the club to the public.

February 8th-no concourse, no main entrance, and sharing with the home show.

- Committee needed to help Michael organize and advertise
- Allow more outside vendors
- \$40.00 tables, and raise the entry fee

- More educational displays
- Need more set up help and participation
- Lapidary demonstration, Bob has volunteered
- Advertising: somd.com and public access television

Christmas party on December 8th

AJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:43.

August Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: August 27, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm

TREASURER: NA

SECRETARY: Minutes approved.

MEMBERSHIP: no new members tonight.

PROGRAMS: Penny is out tonight. We have the potluck and auction tonight and we have something for next month. Suggested that the October program revolve around the rock show.

FIELD TRIPS:

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA is planning a trip to U.S. Silica Quarry in Montpelier, VA.

September 28—Willis Mountain, VA for kyanite.

EDITOR: NA

WEBMASTER: The field trip map that was added was the last update.

OLD BUSINESS: We have the entire arena floor. We need help from our group.

NEW BUSINESS: Name tags are in. There are two left to be picked up.

Jessica's baby is due on September 21st. It's a boy.

AJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.

Going Up the Country—A Field Trip to Ruggles Mine

By Ralph G. and Mary C.

While planning our trip to Massachusetts, we planned a side trip to New Hampshire to collect at the Ruggles Mine in Grafton, New Hampshire. We took the opportunity to stay in New Hampshire and do some sightseeing. We chose Monday, Labor Day, September 2 to go to the mine.

The collecting trip to the mine almost didn't happen. Storms on Sunday night and showers on Monday morning almost washed out the trip. Despite the weather, we went.

We drove to Grafton. Just past the center of Grafton, we saw an arrow for the mine pointing to a side road. We turned, following the arrow. The road went through forest and turned into a dirt road and

Isinglass Mountain, named after the mica deposits. Isinglass is an old name for mica. Commercial production commenced in 1803 by Sam Ruggles and his family. New Hampshire was the sole producer of mica until 1868. General Electric once mined mica at the mine. Bon Ami worked the mine from 1932 to 1959 for feldspar, mica and beryl. They found one mass of beryl that filled 3 freight cars. Mindat lists 31 minerals, including beryl and uranium minerals.

The mine is a pegmatite in the Littleton Formation which was formed during the Devonian era approximately 300,000,000 years ago. The Littleton formation consists mainly of mica schist. New Hampshire was once a sea bed with years of

sediments slowly accumulated on the ocean bottom. Compression changed the sediments into sandstone, silt-

stone, and shale. Eventually these layers of rock grew to be several miles thick.

Sometime near the close of the Devonian period, about 300,000,000 years ago, a pe-

riod of crustal unrest set in. Western New Hampshire, which for a hundred million had been predominantly a region of wide spread seas, began to be uplifted. Two major phenomena; intense compression of the earth's crust and the rise of molten rock into the crust marked this period. Great compressional forces, acting horizontally in a more or

(Continued on page 6)



Figure 1. Mary at the Ruggles Mine Entrance



Figure 2. Side Rooms at Ruggles Mine



Figure 3. View of Ragged Mountain from the Ruggles Mine

we finally arrived at the mine. We now know why Ruggles is called "The Mine in the Sky."

The Ruggles mine is on

Field Trip to Ruggles Mine in Grafton, New Hampshire

(Continued from page 5)

less east-west direction, squeezed the rocks and forced them to buckle. Gigantic folds, both upwards and downwards, trending north and south were produced.

The accumulation of buried sedimentary rocks were heated, squeezed into great folds, and shattered. The heat and pressure changed the mineralogical character of the rocks. The new metamorphic rocks were characterized by

it is today.

The molten rock solidified and resulted in a vein of course grained granite called pegmatite. The pegmatite vein is 1,640 feet long and 335 feet wide, and is approximately 250 feet deep. The crystal formations within the Ruggles pegmatite are larger than any other ever discovered in New Hampshire.

We paid our \$25.00 fee and entered the mine (Figure 1). The path descends into the mine and as we walked into



Figure 3. View of Ragged Mountain from the Ruggles Mine

had side rooms—partial tunnels (Figure 2) which came in handy to shelter us during brief showers.

Walking through the next tunnel, we entered a second room. While collecting in this room, one of the owners—Lance—said that this is where he made the most recent blast on July 4. Mary stayed and collected while I walked to the end of the mine. This presented a wonderful view of the surrounding mountains (Figure 3) even on a cloudy day.

Here Ralph found his first nice specimen in the tailings pile—an apatite crystal in the pegmatite matrix, with the Littleton formation mica schist. We headed back to the room where they blasted and I noticed a light blue area in the wall (Figure 4). Lance identified this as beryl. He said that the beryl at Ruggles occurred as large but fractured crystals. After Ralph collected his beryl, Mary hammered at the beryl (Figure 5, next page).

As noon approached, we sat on a rock to have lunch.

(Continued on page 7)



Figure 4. Beryl Crystal

mica schists. The schists consisted of mica and quartz, with the shiny mica flakes having formed from the pre-existing dull clay particles. Without these enormous upheavals and pressure, New Hampshire would not be as mineral rich as

the mine, we were reminded that what goes down must come up with buckets of rock.

Walking through the tunnel, we entered the first “room”. In this room, we collected schorl – black tourmaline. The rooms

Going Up the Country—A Field Trip to Ruggles Mine

(Continued from page 6)

That is when I spotted it—a boulder with the telltale yellow and green combination indicating the uranium ores autunite and gummite. Other rocks showed a green hue from algae growth. This sample seemed different.

Not wanting to ingest any uranium, I decided to eat my lunch before collecting the samples. Upon testing the samples with long wave ultraviolet (UV) light, the samples glowed bright green, indicating the presence of the uranyl (UO_2)²⁺ radical. I also collected some of the smoky quartz in the boulder in case they contained more of the uranium ores. The UV test showed that some of these samples had areas that glowed bright green under long wave UV light.

One smoky quartz sample exhibited unusual behavior. The tip glowed bright green under long wave UV, but the body glowed green under short wave



Figure 6. Rose Quartz Boulder

UV.

Even Lance was a little surprised at the find, because he said that he did not notice any of the uranium ores in the last blast. He did say that the uranium ores often occurred with apatite. I then showed Lance some apatite in the ledge.

Lance mentioned that the mine yielded rose quartz. I began hunting for a specimen, finding a boulder and obtaining a piece. The piece was very pale, but did have a pink hue. Later I spotted another boulder of pale rose quartz (Figure 6).

We continued collecting until about 3:30, with Mary finding more beryl and Ralph more apatite. We also found dendrites, some pyrite, almandine garnet, microcline feldspar—one piece with a pleasant blue hue, muscovite mica, and “biotite” mica. We found a few “seeded” specimens: galena, amethyst and copper ores. Pleased with our finds, we began the long, uphill trip to the car.

References:

National Audubon Society, Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals.

www.rugglesmine.com, web site for the Ruggles Mine

www.mindat.org/loc-3281.html, Mindat.org for the Ruggles Mine



Figure 5. Mary collecting Beryl

Updated So. MD Rock and Mineral Club Website

By Bob Davidson

When the Clearwater Lapidary Club began in January, I started combining information about both clubs into our website. As time passed it became cluttered and somewhat confusing. It was often not clear whether information was about the Rock club or the Lapidary club. I hope that the new website will be an improvement.

The new opening page is now titled "Southern Maryland Rock and Lapidary Clubs" but the url is still SMRMC.org.

It contains the basic information needed about the clubs, when and where the next meeting is, the topic of the meeting, and directions on how to get there.

The two green buttons will take you to specific club information. Once inside, you will use navigation buttons to the switch between pages within that club's website.


You can go to the other club's site by using the menu choices at the top of the page.

Please let me know if you see any problems, mistakes, or improvements that can be made.





Southern Maryland Rock and Lapidary Clubs

Welcome / The Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club / The Clearwater Lapidary Club



The Clearwater Nature Center in Clinton, Maryland sponsors two clubs devoted to rockhounding and the lapidary arts. Each club has a specific purpose and agenda. The Rock & Mineral Club goes on monthly field trips to collect interesting rocks, minerals, and fossils while the Lapidary Club meets monthly to persue gem cutting and jewelry making interests.



Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club

[Go to Website](#)

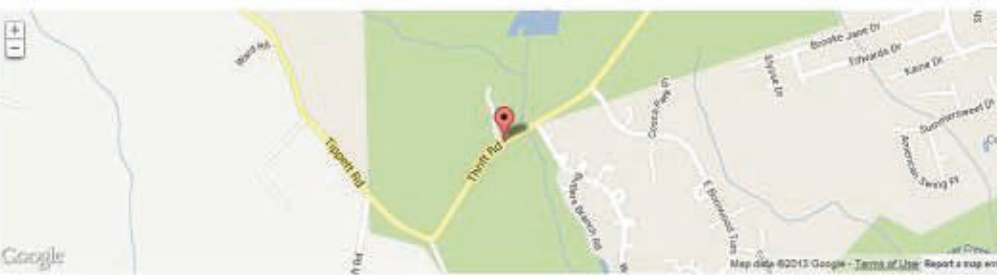
Next Rock Club Meeting
Tuesday, Sepetmber 24 - 7:00pm
"The Amateur Paleontologist's Guide to Thin Sections, Part II: Rocks and Minerals"

Clearwater Lapidary Club

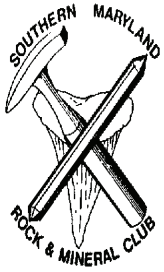
[Go to Website](#)

Next Lapidary Club Meeting
Saturday, Sepetmber 28 - 10:00am
"Making Opal Doublets and Triplets"

Clearwater Nature Center - 11400 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD. 20735 - (301) 297-4575.
Open Daily 8:30am - 5:00pm Sundays 11:00am - 4:00pm Closed Holidays
(Go to the bottom of the hill on Thrift Rd and turn Right at the "Clearwater Nature Center" sign.)



Webmaster: Bob Davidson



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:
November 19,
2013
7:00 PM**

**October
Refreshments/
Programs**

Refreshments:

Tim Foard

Program:

Gary Lohman: "Greening of Planet Earth—Fossil Plants"