

# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## Rock Talk



### November, 2015

### Message from the President

As we come to the end of the year, we all are very busy with family, work and other group gatherings. This quality time is valuable to all's well being. Enjoy all chances one can get.

As discussed during the October's meeting, Bob Davidson is heading a group to organize a show this spring that both the Rock and Mineral and Lapidary Clubs will be part of. Please contact him quickly if you desire to support this effort and make it a success for both clubs. This outdoor event promises to be a excitingly different style of show.

This month we will change a few of the key positions of leadership in the club with our elections. I have gotten no volunteers yet, except for Field Trip Coordinator - which we will have two teaming for the next year - Ralph Gamba and Dave Lines. Please contact myself or Polly if you desire to be part of the leadership in the coming year(s).

Please watch out on the roads this month, due to the deer are running wild many more car accidents are occurring. Remember, if you see one crossing the road - there may be more right behind!!

In this issue:	
October Minutes	2
Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News	3
Field Trip Report: Bluegrass Quarry, Churchville, Maryland	4
EFMLS/AFMS News	5
Upcoming Shows and Events	5
Upcoming Field Trips	6
Member's Finds	6

**Next Meeting:**  
**October 27, 2015@7:00 PM**

**Program: Good Things in Small Packages:**  
Steve Weinberger

**Refreshments:**  
Timothy Foard

**Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift Road,  
Clinton, MD.**

## OCTOBER MINUTES

Submitted by Linda Holden

**DATE:** Meeting was called to order on October 27th 2015 at 7:01 pm. Rich spoke briefly on articles he has sent out in emails. November elections are coming up. Please step up for the various positions. Rich will be stepping down as president. [The members truly appreciate all his hard work in behalf of our club.]

**VISITORS:** Bruce Gaines. He has found items in rivers, creeks and quarries, including Bruce Creek. He brought some samples. Bruce is very interested in being a part of the club and being a source of information and knowledge. David and Ethan Zwick. Ethan is interested in rockhounding. They heard about us from our web site.

**TREASURER:** Cheryl has turned over the position of treasurer to Dave Lines so she can care for her husband, Monty. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Dave reported that our insurance money is due by November 15th. Michael will send it in this week.

**MEMBERSHIP:** No report.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Jim has received no response from Elmo at U.S. Silica. Cheryl said it's difficult to get into her community to collect fossils if you don't have a sticker. Polly asked Dave Lines to take over field trips for next year. He has agreed. He wanted to know how many are interested in a short notice trip to collect fossils at low tide. He will send around a list for sign up. Tina reported that Magma has a trip this coming week in Prospect, Virginia. She and Harry are going on Sunday. Numerous minerals are available. Ralph reported that Moorefield Mine in Amelia, VA is open again this fall. He has proposed a joint trip with the Lapidary Club on November 21st. The cost is now \$15.00. Ralph went to Cape May and had some rock samples from the beach.

**PROGRAMS:** Tonight's program, "Geode Cracking," is presented by Jim White. Steve Weinberger will do the program, "Good Things Come in Small Packages" in November. Carole needs volunteers for January and February. Refreshments for tonight were provided by Tina and Harry.

**WEBMASTER:** Bob reported that our website has been very busy lately. There were over 450 hits in the last week. Leo gave Bob a flash drive of pictures from the Willis Mountain field trip. Tina sent a report on the Mushroom Festival. Bob has put information on the web about the Richmond Swap on November 14.

**NEWSLETTER:** Tim has had problems with his computer. The newsletter should be received tonight. Rich provided us with a copy to look over.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the newsletter were sent around for all to read. Approved as written. A correction was made to Dave's minutes for August 25th 2015 under New Business. The date should be March 2016.

Michael reminded us to pay our dues for next year starting November 1st 2015.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Bob proposed that we consider having our Rock Show at Patuxent Park/Jug Bay. It would be an outdoor venue. The cost is \$600 for 24 hours, 8:00 am to 8:00 am. It is something we could do. We could reduce table fees. We need to set up a small committee to study feasibility. They have a pavilion, modern facilities, and a food court area. Michael said it books quickly so we should decide by January 1st, 2016. Michael will work with committee. We will take a vote next month.

**ADJOURNED:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

## Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News



### The REACH in Richland Showcased the Element Earth on Saturday

<http://www.nbcrightnow.com/story/30463707/the-reach-in-richland-showcased-the-element-earth-on-saturday>

RICHLAND, WA- The REACH in Richland hosted an event all about the Earth Saturday for kids to explore as a part of their elements series. NBC Right Now partnered up with Ben Franklin Transit to host Elements at The REACH Earth edition.

Kids learned about the Earth by exploring some constellation crafts, examined a stained glass earth, pet rocks, and do it yourself journals. Many painted and made an Earth out of clay. One group displayed their rocks and minerals for the first time at this event.

"This sort of goes right along with the kids and rocks. We have a lot of adults that love rocks also. The kids are very interested in everything. We just think this is a wonderful place to expose the kids to the wonderful world of rocks," said Evelyn Cataldo, President of Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club. Earth is one of the elements the reach has presented this year.

### Digging up fossils at the College of Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151113/PC16/151119681/1177/digging-up-fossils-at-the-college-of-charleston>



College of Charleston geologists want a look at your bones. Experts will identify fossils exposed by the recent floods as part of Earth Science Day on Saturday.

People with fossils are asked to bring them to the second floor of the Schools of Sciences and Mathematics building, 202 Calhoun St., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The day also features a fossil search, hands-on exploration stations, an earthquake table and an interactive walk through the solar system.

Tours will be held through the Mace Brown Natural History Museum's collection of mastodon bones, a saber-toothed cat, the paw of a giant sloth with claws the size of hatchet blades, most from finds in the Low Country.

"Erosion events like the flood generally expose more fossils, especially in river banks, that are washed downstream into sandbars," said Erin Beutel, director of the S.C. Earthquake Education and Preparedness Program at the college.

Field Trip Report: Bluegrass Quarry,  
Churchville, Maryland  
Timothy Foard

On cool Saturday morning October 24, 2015 15 rockhounds, including 4 from the SMRMC arrived at the Bluegrass (formerly Vulcan) Materials Quarry in Churchville, Maryland for a half-day of collecting. I was looking forward to this club trip for several reasons: this was only my second field trip this year; this particular quarry was a first for me; and it is rare event to collect in any Maryland quarry. After everyone arrived, we listened to the safety briefing and proceeded down into the pit. The first thing I noticed about this site is that the host rock consist of a gneiss and I thought that the rock's metamorphic origin will make it difficult to find any cavities—at least large ones anyway—that might produce crystals. After about an hour exploring the area, I heard relatively little pounding on boulders. During the time I spent in the quarry, I was not able to use my phone at all, not even to take photos. I should have taken the camera. This was a sobering lesson in redundancy in documentation not to be forgotten.



Unidentified crystal near cavity in gneiss

Near the end of the first hour I did managed to find a 30 lb chunk of gneiss containing a small cavity about an inch in diameter with crystals near the opening. During the next couple of hours the sound of hammers pounding on rocks increased, always a good sign.

Several collectors found long crystals of epidote earlier, and I eventually found a few and lots of short crystals near the end of our stay in the pit. Jim White found mostly calcite, including a dogtooth crystal. Pyrite in massive form was also collected by several members.



Short epidote crystals on calcite

It was time to leave the quarry. As I was heading back to the car I found a piece of schist containing a garnet crystal. It was a really enjoyable time there and we thank the quarry representative as we headed out. It wasn't until I was about five or six miles from the quarry that my phone "unfroze" and became functional again.

## EFMLS/AFMS NEWS by Timothy Foard



There is an update on the collection of obsidian from the Warner Mountain area of California's Modoc National Forest in the November newsletter of the AFMS.

This month's newsletter has several of the same articles present in the September EFMLS newsletter (see EFMLS box below)

In addition, there is a call for entries for the 2016 editor contest, the kickoff for the 2016 Endowment Fund, and an encouragement for rockhounds to display the rockhound sticker.

For these and other information, visit [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



The EFMLS Newsletter for November has suggestions on providing material for the club's newsletter. There is a call for club yearbook entries for 2015. A "Safety Matters" article on safety briefings given by the club's field trip coordinator and mine representative prior to collecting is included in the newsletter.

For these and other information, visit [www.amfed.org.efmls](http://www.amfed.org.efmls)

### Upcoming Shows and Events: 2015

**November 19--** Fairless Hills, PA—Leidy Microscopical Society regular club meeting at the Northminster Presbyterian Church 7:30 PM

**November 21–22--** Fairfax, VA—24th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. George Mason University, The HUB Ballroom, Rte 123 & Braddock Rd; Fairfax, VA

**November 21--** Mountville, PA—2nd Annual Mineral/Fossil Fest sponsored by the Lancaster Co. Fossil & Mineral Club. Trinity Church of Christ, 450 W Main St; Mountville, PA.

**November 27 – 29:** 36th Annual Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Show sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society. Salem Civic Center, 1001 Boulevard, Salem, VA

*Upcoming Field Trips*

*Combined (with the Clearwater Lapidary Club) at Morefield Gem Mine (a fee site), Amelia, Virginia*

*Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup>, from 9:30AM to 4:30PM*

If interested, contact Ralph Gamba at [rgamba@verizon.net](mailto:rgamba@verizon.net).

*Our annual field trip to JMU (James Madison University)*

*Geology Dept. has been confirmed with Dr. Lance Kearns and will be held on Saturday Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

If interested, contact David Lines at [dave.lines@earthlink.net](mailto:dave.lines@earthlink.net)' (be sure to include your name, email, and cell phone number where you may be reached in an emergency or if a cancellation occurs.)

**Member's Finds**

These specimens are pallasite meteorite found in a dry river bed near Seymchan, Russia during a survey in 1967. The top photo is an iron specimen showing Widmanstätten patterns. The bottom photo is a specimen from the same locality containing olivine crystals, also known as peridot, an iron magnesium silicate. Both specimens are in the collection of Gary Lohman.



Collected any interesting specimens? Send a photo or two to the editor at [bmorebugman@yahoo.com](mailto:bmorebugman@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the next issue of Rock Talk.

## SMRMC OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Rich Simcsak  
[sadsack56@msn.com](mailto:sadsack56@msn.com)

### Membership Chairman

Polly Zimmerman  
[polly.zimmerman@verizon.net](mailto:polly.zimmerman@verizon.net)

### Programs Chairman

Carole Raucheson  
[caroleal@verizon.net](mailto:caroleal@verizon.net)

### Secretary

Linda Holden  
[lholden@aol.com](mailto:lholden@aol.com)

### Field Trip Chairman

Jim White  
[whitejs1@verizon.net](mailto:whitejs1@verizon.net)

### Treasurer

Cheryl Reese  
[cheryl\\_59@comcast.net](mailto:cheryl_59@comcast.net)

### Editor

Timothy Foard  
[bmorebugman@yahoo.com](mailto:bmorebugman@yahoo.com)

### Webmaster

Bob Davidson  
[Bob.Davidson2@Yahoo.com](mailto:Bob.Davidson2@Yahoo.com)



## The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

Meetings take place on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm

Clearwater Nature Center, 11000  
Thrift Road, Clinton, MD.

For More information, call:

**(301) 297-4575**

**We're on the web:**

**SMRMC.org**