

Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



Rock Talk



April, 2016

Message from the Acting President

Bob Davison

The Passing of a Friend

I am sorry to report that one of our friends passed away on April 15.

Don Werner was new to both clubs and not known by everyone. I first met him at our rock show last year. He had a lot of Septarian Agates that he wanted to cut so I suggested he may want to join our lapidary club. He came to a few of our meetings to meet everyone and see if he would fit in. He bonded immediately. He was that kind of guy.

A couple of months ago he joined the rock club and was looking forward to going on field trips, especially any that may be going out west. He wanted to go back to Utah for more Septarians.

He was pretty open about his treatment for melanoma especially when he met others who are cancer survivors.

His wife Carol called me this morning about his passing.

There will be a memorial service for Don this Friday at Brinsfield-Echols Funeral Home in Charlotte Hall, Md.

http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=1783083

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Next Meeting:

April 26, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Program:

Origin of the Universe (DVD)

Refreshments:

Polly Zimmerman, Al and Carole Raucheisen

MARCH MINUTES

Submitted by Linda Holden

DATE: Meeting was called to order on March 22, at 7:08 pm by Bob Davidson. Bob reminded everyone to get their new picture member ID cards tonight if you haven't already done so. Make sure to get it scanned for attendance.

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: Don Werner loves to collect rocks. Aaron Datesman collected rocks as a kid. He loves fluorescents. Both plan to join the club.

MEMBERSHIP: We now have 43 members in the club. There will be a change in the cost to join the club. In county is still \$15.00. Out of county is \$18 now, but will go to \$20 on June 1, 2016

MINUTES: Accepted as written.

TREASURER: No change.

PROGRAMS: Carole reported that Gary Lohman is doing the program tonight on "Trace Fossils." Cindy is providing refreshments. Gary knows someone who can do a program. There are a lot of spots to fill for programs and refreshments. We also have some DVD's. A sign-up sheet is being passed around.

NEWSLETTERS: Tim needs an updated list of emails.

WEBMASTER: 278 visitors this past week. We had 891 pages looked at--was hoping for more activity for the up-coming show/picnic.

FIELD TRIPS: Dave reported on the field trip to Graves Mountain. 10 signed up to go, but only 3

went. They spent three days at Graves Mountain. Dave and Bummer went from our club. Dave brought some samples to show tonight. On April 22-24 there is an Open House at Graves Mountain. There will be vendors on site. On April 30-May 1 there is the Primitive Technology Weekend at Willow Grove Nature Center in Baltimore County. Try out flint napping. Dave wants to do a trip to Robinson River for Unakite in May. He will put information in the newsletter once he has a date. See the newsletter for other long range trips. There is the Mushroom Festival and Agate Hunt in Kentucky. Geodes are plentiful in the Sanford area. Dave would like to get some more trips to North Carolina. Tina reported on a field trip to the Sterling Hill Super Dig on Saturday April 23, 2016 from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm. This field trip is a lot of fun and should not be missed. Go on the website or see our newsletter for all the information. Tina will be at the registration desk. You need to sign up by email by April 18, 2016. There is also the Franklin NJESA Gem and Mineral Show on April 24, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS: At last month's meeting we discussed having a Potluck Picnic and Rock Swap/Sale on Saturday June 18, 2016 from 8-5pm at Gilbert Run Recreational Park. It is open to all EFMLS clubs and their families. See the Rock Talk for all the details. It should be a lot of fun. The Richmond Club has developed a flyer and sent it out. Dave has been working hard in getting this activity organized and doing a lot of advertising.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

EFMLS/AFMS NEWS by Timothy Foard

Upcoming Shows and Events:**2016**

May 14 – South Penn Rock Swap and Sale sponsored by the Central PA Rock and Mineral Club and Franklin Co Rock and Mineral Club. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 615 Narrows Rd, Biglerville PS (West of Arendsville, PA).

May 14-15 –48th annual “World of Gems and Minerals” Show, sponsored by the Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, 312 Gernant’s church Rd., Leesport, PA.

May 14-15 -Cape-Atlantic Rock Hounds Annual Spring Gem, Jewelry, Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show. 2641 Cologne Ave. Mays Landing, NJ.

May 21 –27th Annual Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Show, hosted by the Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society. Ruhl Armory, York Rd at I-695, Towson, MD

May 21 –1st Annual Earth Science Show and Sale, sponsored by the Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks Co, PA. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd, Fairless Hills, PA.



The March newsletter has a “Safety Matters” article on Master of the Obvious (especially in the field). An amendment to Article V of the AFMS Bylaws (War or major national emergencies) that will be up for votes at the annual meeting in July 2016. It is now becoming more difficult to collect rocks, minerals and fossils in southern California deserts because of the creation of 3 new national monuments in the region. There is a short article on the best age for recruiting junior members and there is a tribute to the late Jon Spunaugle, former president of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Lands Access Association.

For these and other information, visit www.amfed.org



The EFMLS Newsletter for March has is a safety article on taking care of the hands while rockhounding. There is a call for nominating a person for the Each One Teach One Award and one for the American Rockhound of the Year. There is a reminder to register for the 2016 ildacres workshop

For these and other information, visit www.amfed.org.efmls

Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News

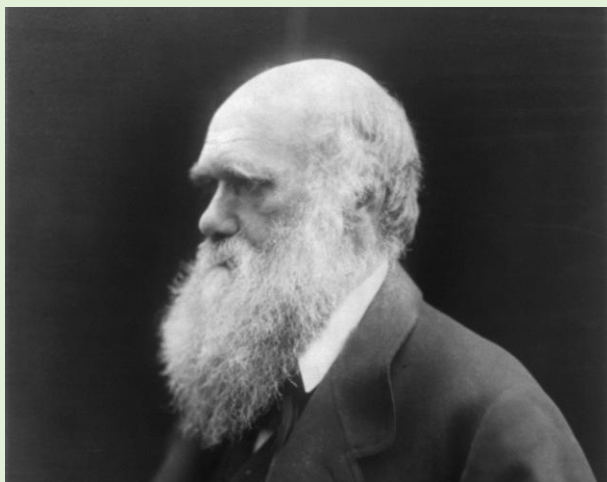
How Charles Darwin Classified His Mineral Collection

David Bressan CONTRIBUTOR

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidbressan/2016/04/20/how-charles-darwin-classified-his-mineral-collection/#45465796377b>

“Geology is a capital science to begin, as it requires nothing but a little reading, thinking and hammering.”

- Charles R. Darwin in a letter to his cousin W.D. Fox



Charles Darwin (courtesy of the Library of Congress)

From an early age, Charles Darwin collected minerals even if, as he himself laments, “I continued collecting minerals with much zeal, but quite unscientifically—all that I cared about was a new-NAMED mineral, and I hardly attempted to classify them.”

As a student of medicine at Edinburgh University in the 1820s, Darwin frequented various courses on natural sciences, including lectures by mineralogist Professor Robert Jameson. (Though he later described Jameson’s lectures as “incredibly dull.”) Nevertheless Darwin seems to have used frequently

Jameson’s *Manual of Mineralogy* for his private studies, as it is one of the most heavily annotated books found in his library.

Jameson’s manual uses physical properties, such as color and degree of hardness, introduced by German mineralogist Carl Friedrich Christian Mohs in 1822-1824, for mineral identification. Darwin would in his later career as geologist adopt this classification, as he often described rocks based on their visible properties. So he used terms like “porphyry” for rocks with large, well visible, crystals. Or he used names like “greystone” or “greenstone” to describe greenish-dark magmatic rocks, today classified as a dolerite-basalt (and to confuse modern geologists, greenstone is nowadays the name for a [metamorphic rock](#)).

During the summer of 1831, Darwin joined a field [trip](#) of professor Adam Sedgwick, who was geologizing in Wales. Darwin was interested in acquiring the basics of geological field work, structural geology and rock classification. Twenty pages of notes made by Darwin during this tour are still preserved today and in his autobiography he will later remember: “This tour was of decided use in teaching me a little how to make out the geology of a country...”

When Darwin returned to his hometown of Shrewsbury, August 29th, a letter from Captain Robert Fitz Roy was waiting for him. It offered him a position as gentlemen companion on board of the Beagle, ready to set sail from Plymouth in December 1831.

Darwin used the remaining time to exercise mineral identification with the blowpipe. By heating a mineral with a flame you can observe the chemical reactions and modifications of the specimen to identify it or its composing elements. Darwin also

used muriatic (hydrochloric) acid, a useful tool to distinguish between carbonate (showing strong reaction with the acid) and silicate rocks (showing no reaction at all).

On board the Beagle, Darwin used a complete library for mineral identification, including *A selection of the Geological Memoirs* (1824), featuring a mineral identification chart compiled by famous French geologist Alexandre Brongniart. These manuals used, like modern books, properties like color, hardness and shape to identify crystals and minerals and, unlike modern textbooks, it used taste and odor. Darwin got himself a goniometer to measure the angles of crystal-faces, a tool not easy to use in the field but Darwin proudly remarks “Hornblende determined by myself with goniometer.”

Especially interesting were classification charts based on the color of a specimen. *Werner’s nomenclature of colors* published in 1821 by Patrick Syme is a book displaying just a chart and the description of various colors to be compared with the colors of minerals, animals and plants. Darwin himself brought this book on board of the Beagle and used it to describe snakes, rocks and even the “beryl blue” glaciers spotted in South America.

Darwin, unlike other British geologists of his time, adopted geological terms used mostly by German geologists, such as explorer of the Andes Alexander von Humboldt (whose books he had read and admired as a student), to describe the rocks observed in the field. He also, like Humboldt, became especially interested in volcanic rocks.

Darwin’s final advice for collecting rocks and minerals is still important for the modern collector:

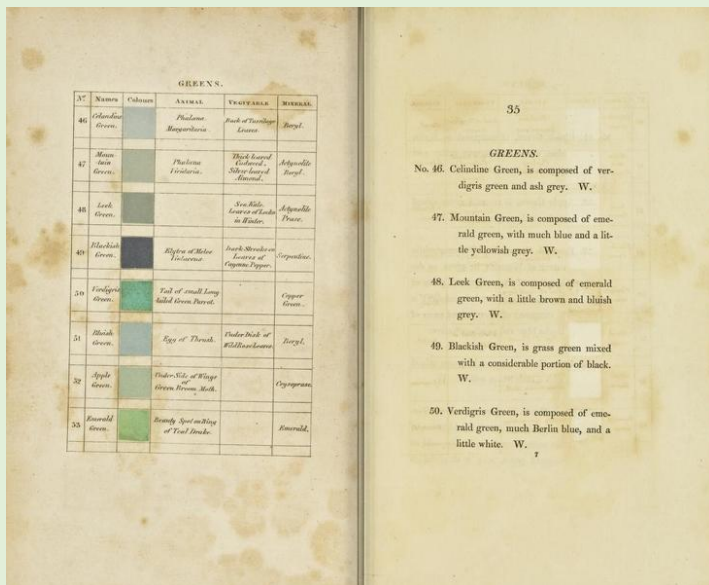
Put a number on every specimen, and every fragment of a specimen; and during the very same minute let it be entered in the catalogue, so that if hereafter its locality be doubted, the collector may say in good truth, “Every specimen of mine was ticketed on the spot.” Any thing which is folded up in paper, or put into a separate box, ought to have a number on the outside (with the exception perhaps of geological specimens), but more especially a duplicate number on the inside attached to the specimen itself.

Rockhound State Park turns 50

Jesse Moya, Deming Headlight

<http://www.demingheadlight.com/story/news/2016/03/31/rockhound-state-park-turns-50/82483244/>

Gem & Mineral Society highlights park's festivities with annual Native Plant Sale



Werner’s nomenclature of colors, image in public domain



(Photo: Courtesy Photo)

DEMING — Rockhound State Park will be celebrating its 50th anniversary by hosting a variety of events and fun-filled activities free of charge. The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9 at the park's Visitor Center, 9880 Stirrup Road, and will be in conjunction with the annual Native Plant Sale hosted by the Friends of Rockhound State Park.

The celebration will include live music, gem and mineral displays, food trucks and pony cart rides for children. In addition, the Friends volunteer organization will be selling many different varieties of native plants and cacti of the Chihuahuan Desert.

“We provide native plants, adaptive plants, and this year we are going to have some roses for sale, too,” said Sally Allen, a member of Friends of Rockhound.

Friends was founded in 2005 as a club dedicated to the preservation of the park as well as education about the park's history and the gems that can be found there. Rockhound is one of the only parks in the U.S. where visitors are allowed to pick up gems and walk out with them.

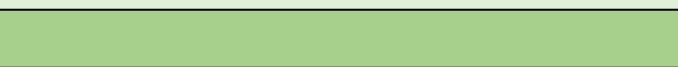
Members of the Deming Gem & Mineral Society will have various gems and displays set up inside the Visitor's Center for guests to enjoy. The club is a heavy supporter of the park due to the nature of rock hunting that takes place in the area.

“Rockhounds go crazy when they come here,” said Richard Barnes, a volunteer at the Visitor's Center. “The serious rockhounds are looking for thunder eggs and geodes.”

Thunder eggs are a type of rock that, when cut open, have brilliant colored minerals inside them. They are abundant in the area for those looking to do a bit more than surface looking for rocks and minerals.

With the park open for free, families are encouraged to come out and celebrate the anniversary and support the plant sale. The sale is Friends of Rockhound's largest fundraiser of the year and their proceeds go to keep up with the promotion and education of the park.

“We're so excited,” said Allen. “Rockhound State Park is a very unique park. It was established so that people could go into the park and actually take little bits of the park away with them.”



Trip Report for Graves Mountain, Georgia --- Peacock Rocks and Scarce Rutile

By Dave Lines

“Hey Dave! Scott says you probably need to come over here and see this. Now!”

With those words, Bummer really had my attention. I immediately made my way down 30 feet of jumbled rocks and scrambled across and up another 200 feet of fairly open slope to where Scott and Bummer stood --- staring at a 6 inch diameter hole in the cliff. It was an intact pocket filled with quartz crystals --- all pointing inward like the spokes of a wheel toward the center and covered with beautiful multicolored iridescent hematite. It was exactly what we were looking for.

It had all started a month or so before with a phone call to Junior Norman, the official caretaker of Graves Mountain in eastern Georgia near the little town of Lincolnton. You see, Junior controls the key to the gate to this mountain --- a mountain that has become very famous in the world of rock collecting because it has yielded some of the finest mineral specimens in the United States. The rutile crystals alone from this former kyanite mining operation are the finest in the world in terms of luster, perfection and large size. The iridescent hematite is spectacular and the better specimens are classic with sharp,

brilliant colors painted in a kaleidoscope over every imaginable background shape.



There are lazulite crystals --- singles of collectable sizes as well as small embedded ones in white quartz suitable for beautiful lapidary projects. There are ___ total minerals in all that have been found here. And despite years of intense commercial mining, Graves Mountain remains a wonderful place for rock hounds to find more great stuff.

When I asked Junior if we could reserve the mountain for the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club, he said "Sure! Come on down and enjoy yourselves. Just give me a call a few days before you arrive and we will set up a time for you to sign the waivers and open the gate." That is Junior's typical great southern hospitality.

Then I prepared a detailed Trip Info sheet and sent it out to our club members as well as to about ten other clubs in our area. Eight people signed up from several clubs, but due to various circumstances, only three people actually made the trip --- Bummer and me from the Southern Maryland club and Scott from the Northern Virginia club.

Following a 600 mile drive that seemed to go by fairly quickly, Bummer and I arrived in Lincoln in

mid-afternoon on Wednesday March 16th and went straight to Junior's business office --- "C. E. Norman Wrecking Company", which specializes in auto salvage. As he had told me in a recent phone call, Junior was not there due to being with his wife who was undergoing surgery in Augusta. But one of his men was there, so we introduced ourselves and signed the waivers (I had brought copies which I had found online) and made plans for them to open the gate and get a signed waiver from Scott first thing the next morning.



That evening we rendezvoused with Scott and ate supper together at the local pizza place. We also took home some sub sandwiches to take to the mine the next day. Then we headed back to our motels and got a good night's sleep. Bummer and I stayed at the Cullars Inn which seemed to be the better of the two motels in town. There seemed to be 4 distinct types of clientele staying there --- contractors with pickup trucks full of tools, bass fisherman with big pickup trucks hauling bass boats, high end bird dog owners with pickup trucks which had large stainless steel dog compartments instead of a truck bed --- and regular folks like us.

The next morning we all met at the Hardees next to our motel for breakfast --- but it was well before daylight -- we had forgotten about being further west and the resulting later sunrise. Anyway, we met

Junior's man at the gate at 7:30 a.m. and he got Scott's waiver and "donation", then opened the gate for us. We started with a group photo – 3 guys --- all clean and neat and eager to go digging. We loaded our stuff in backpacks, a wagon and a dolly. We definitely had taken too much stuff --- like a 100 pounds too much. Then I walked to the top of the first road and decided that the steep descent from the road to the floor of the main pit was too hairy. I turned around and went the long way (over a mile) along the lower road to the far entrance to the main pit. It was longer, but safer. An hour later, I finally reached my destination.

The first thing I noticed in the main pit were big changes since my previous visit 8 years ago. Lots of pine trees had grown in the pit near the front highwall. Someone had been using heavy equipment to dig near the left side of the front highwall and had heaped up a huge pile of dirt and big rocks back over their work area. There were at least 15 feet deep of "too big to move" rocks on the pile. No one was going to dig in that spot. And it was right where I had been thinking I would dig this time. No way.

So, like all good rockhounds, we started surface collecting. Right away I found a large chunk of white quartz with the impression of a one inch rutile crystal. I showed everyone what to keep an eye out for. I broke apart the quartz, but no more rutile inside that I could find. In a few more minutes Scott found his first rutile crystal --- laying loose on the surface -- - about 1-1/4 inches across and well formed. We kept at it for several hours. Bummer found a couple of 1/2 inch rutiles by screening the soil in front of the highwall. They were decent crystals. Scott found another rutile about the same size as his first one --- it had been inside a hunk of white quartz. I found some nice blue lazulite crystals embedded in gray kyanite-quartz boulders. It was tough material, but I managed to get a few pieces large enough to cab.



After lunch, we spread out to prospect the edges of the main pit. As none of us were having any particular luck, I suggested to Scott that we explore the secondary pit on the backside of the highwall. We left my wagon and used the steep goat trail in the left corner of the pit to climb up to the road along the rim. From there I lead the way to the where we had found iridescent hematite on our previous trip. The spot where I had found quartz crystals covered with iridescent hematite had been enlarged but still looked inviting. We did some test digging and found some broken pieces of quartz crystals and iridescent hematite. I went back to get Bummer from the main pit. And we spent the rest of the afternoon digging in the fairly loose material. Scott found a quartz point about one inch in diameter but neither Bummer nor I found much of anything. We quit about 5 p.m. – thoroughly tired and dirty --- and headed back to our motels to wash up and meet for supper.

That evening we feasted on Mexican food. After our meal, when visited the grocery store and bought stuff for lunch the next day. We hit the sack early and met again for breakfast at Hardees. A lot of the same people were at Hardees who had been there the day before for breakfast. We got out to Graves Mountain by around 8:00 a.m. for a long day of prospecting and digging --- mostly in the secondary pit. I found a lot of very weathered hematite and one nice pocket with hematite that looked like it had been "dripped into

place” in a nice, frozen waterfall pattern. About mid-day, I returned to the main pit to retrieve my wagon and pull it out the long way around to the secondary pit. Bummer went with me because he needed to get his large dolly. It was an arduous pull. We decided to pull only part way to the secondary pit. We were just too tired. One definitely needs to be in good shape to do this trip.



About 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon is when Scott found his quartz crystal pocket. It was a good one for sure. He spent the rest of the afternoon retrieving the contents. He worked much faster than me --- I would have taken a full day to get it out. He did a great job. As it turned out, one of the largest crystals had come loose and fallen to the floor of the pocket.

I continued to work the area of hematite pockets and started wrapping the specimens in newspaper about 4 p.m. --- it took me over an hour to wrap the stuff. Meanwhile, Scott felt sorry for me and went out and brought back my wagon to help me carry everything back to the truck. Thanks Scott. That was a lifesaver.

We left the mine about 6 p.m.. After some showers to clean up, we all meet for supper again at the pizza

place. We discussed our plans for the next day, but were undecided because of a forecast of heavy rain. We had hoped to visit Junior at his home to see his collection that evening and maybe purchase some specimens, but his wife, who had just completed surgery, was just too tired for company. We understood.

The next morning, we studied the radar and the forecast and determined that the rain would probably hold off until that afternoon. So, with high hopes, we headed back to Graves Mountain for our final day. We decided to remove the shelf above Scott's crystal pocket, but after 3 hours of hard digging and hard rocks, we had found very little to justify continuing. Again we spread out and started looking again in the back pit. After lunch, I decided to collect some “leaverites” of iridescent hematite that were scattered throughout the general area. Surprisingly, I found quite a few good pieces --- nothing spectacular, but with trimming and cleaning, some should be pretty nice. The rain finally came, but it did not amount to much more than sprinkles. Thank you Big Guy in the sky!!

We called Junior later that afternoon and locked the gate when we left. We were some pretty dirty hombres --- Bummer and I had a lady take our picture to prove it.

That evening was our last in Lincolnton, so back to the pizza place for supper. Delicious as before. Over our meal, I suggested returning to Maryland a different way --- via Asheville, NC --- so we could visit the MAGMA rock show there. And that is exactly what we did the next morning. We left early Sunday morning in time to spend a couple of hours at the show before noon. Scott showed up just after we did and only stayed a few minutes, before continuing his drive to Illinois to stop at his parents' house enroute to relocating in Colorado.

We found lots of local specimens from North Carolina and the surrounding area. I purchased some

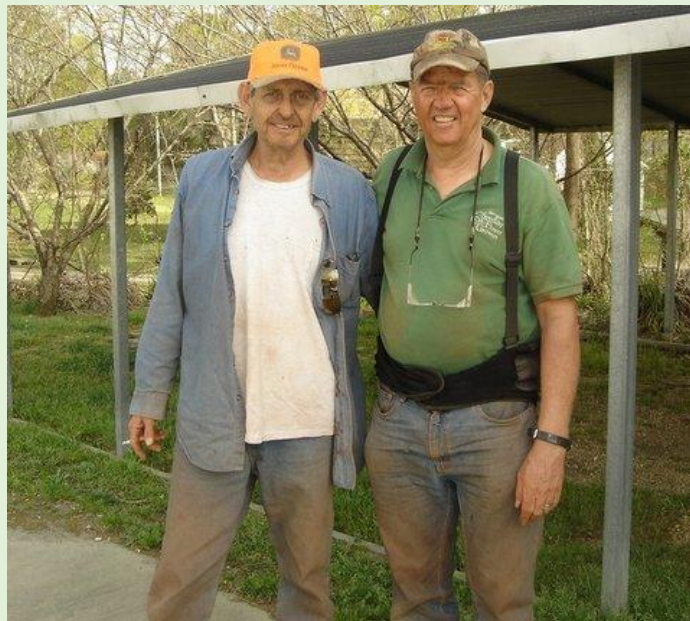
nice amethyst from the Reel Mine as well as from Jackson Crossroads. Also various specimens like NC emerald in quartz for cabbing. Saw (but did not buy) some really nice specimens there --- like the \$2,000 deep purple amethyst from Jackson Crossroads offered by Rick Jacquot. The size of a soccer ball with perfect points. Saw another smoky which was larger that had just been sold for \$500. I dickered with a fellow over a North Carolina emerald crystal from the closed Crabtree Mine --- I almost bought it, but after consulting with my son Jeff by cell phone, I decided no because it did not having good terminations on its ends and it did not have a bright luster --- otherwise, it was a dark emerald green-colored crystal about the size of my little finger. I found several other bargains and left happy.

We were home in Maryland by supertime. It had been a fun and rewarding adventure to a classic location. We were glad we did it.

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Short Notice Fossil Field Trip to Purse State Park

by Dave Lines

Since it was only two days until the new moon, it was a no brainer that the strong northwest winds that had started overnight would cause a "blow-out tide". So I sent out a "Short Notice Fossil Trip Email" to our club members and said that I would be going to Purse State Park (*no longer a State Park --- now belongs to MD DNR and re-named Nanjemoy Wildlife Management Area) that Tuesday afternoon (April 5th) since the predicted low tide was about 12:00 noon.



When I arrived about 11:30 a.m., the beach was deserted and the tide was WAY out. There was an area of larger cobbles at least 15 feet wide below the sandy portion of the beach. It was cold with NW wind still blowing at a good clip. Almost immediately, I found a nice Native American hand axe or chopper made of pink and white quartz laying in the cobbles. And soon afterwards I found the lower half of a very smoothly worn spear point made of tan quartzite in the same area. As I was looking, I heard a faint “yahoo” and I looked back to see Carole and Al waving at me. I joined them and after showing what I had found, we decided to head south to look for fossils. I led and they followed at a slower pace.

The beach along the way was very sandy with fine sand --- unusual for Purse. The typical beach surface at that location usually has drifts of small gravel between the water and the bank --- but there were none – just smooth fine sand. The gravel drifts typically contain small shark’s teeth. This sandy beach structure continued until we were past the second stream draining the second large marshy area.

On the gravel bar at the point, conditions were better, but still too much sand. Past the point, the beach improved as more rocks and coarser gravel were exposed. There also several areas of cliff sections that had fallen to the beach and the winter storms had done a nice job of washing out the fossils from them. Fossil oysters in singles and small clusters were abundant but I only picked up a couple.



Along this stretch of the river, the beach in the summer is only a few feet wide even during the lowest tide, but in the winter and early spring months, it widens (on the lowest predicted tides) to about 10 feet. During a blowout tide, the beach is about 20 feet wide and so it was today. Potential specimen possibilities are numerous --- sea glass, fossil sharks teeth to 1-1/2 inches long, fossil crocodile teeth, fossil oysters, fossil turritella internal molds, fossil skolithos sand worm tubes in quartzite cobbles, native American artifacts, Patuxent River Stone (Maryland state gemstone) and a variety of relatively different rocks --- especially for Charles County--- mica schist, quartz with embedded mica, jasper in several colors, hematite, metabasalt, flint and petrified wood. It is a fun place to look. But you must look carefully because there is so much material that your eyes and brain can get “sensory overload”

trying to sort out everything you are seeing at the same time.

By about 2 p.m., Carole and Al caught up with me and we kept looking for another hour or so. The wind began to die down and the water level began to rise again, but there was still plenty of beach exposed. However, we “youngsters” were getting tired, and our buckets were definitely feeling heavier, so we started heading back about 3 p.m..

Overall, it was an excellent trip. Carole found a large “otodus” shark’s tooth that easily was her best find of the day. We all found lots of turritella. I found a nice small “otodus” tooth that had just washed out and it was in perfect condition – sharp with 2 side cusps. I also found a small piece of petrified wood as well as lots of turritella. The weather conditions, although cold for April, had been great for fossil collecting.

Member’s Finds

The photo below is one of the ichno(trace)fossils collected (and purchased) by Gary Lohman and displayed during the March 2016 meeting



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

An Upcoming SMRMC Event

June 18: La Plata, MD - Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club (SMRMC.org) will host a free POTLUCK PICNIC AND ROCK SWAP/SALE for all Eastern Federation (EFMLS) clubs and their families/friends. 9-5 on Saturday June 18th at Gilbert Run Recreational Park located at 13140 Charles Street, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 which is 8.8 miles east of La Plata, MD. In addition to minerals, fossils and lapidary for swap/sale, each attendee family is asked to bring a potluck dish to share and one (1) labeled specimen donation for an auction after lunch to help defray expenses. Ample parking for tailgate swapping/selling as well as 15 picnic tables under a covered pavilion. Onsite restrooms and handicap access. “Treasure Box” (donations welcome) of excess rocks and related tools for free for anyone to take. SMRMC will provide plates/cups/plasticware/sodas/bottled water (no alcohol). \$5 per carload Park Entry Fee for all vehicles. Park has a 60 acre lake and many recreational facilities (playgrounds, boat rentals, trails, etc.) for kids and adults. SMRMC.org for further details. Or contact Dave Lines at dave.lines@earthlink.net or 240-427-7062.

Official Club Field Trip Notice

Subj: An Official Field Trip of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club to Robinson River, Madison County VA on Saturday May 14, 2016 from 8 – 1

Meeting Time --- McDonald's restaurant in Madison, VA on U.S. Rt. 29 at 8:00 a.m., May 14, 2016 (at 327 Washington St., Madison, VA 22727)

Club Membership --- all attendees must be paid up members of SMRMC, which carries insurance. Kids who are part of a SMRMC Family Membership are welcome if supervised.

Trip Leader --- Dave Lines, cell phone (240)427-7062; email dave.lines@earthlink.net

Special Considerations --- We will meet in Madison and carpool in a maximum of 3 vehicles (hopefully ones with high clearance and 4WD) since access only has a very limited place to park. All extra vehicles will be left in a church parking lot in the town of Madison about 5 miles from the site.

Directions --- use Mapquest to the Madison, Va McDonald's (address above). It is about a 2 hour trip.

Location – Location is on a “posted” private farm along and in a stream about 30 feet wide with generally clear, cold, fast moving water around 2 feet deep. Some areas are 1 foot deep and some areas are deeper. We will be looking both on the gravel bars and in the stream. Location is also stocked with trout, but we do not have permission to fish.

Safety --- Use common sense. Don't try to cross the river alone – stay in pairs and assist each other. Recommend hip or chest waders and a sturdy support stick. Use eye protection as necessary if you chip a rock. Use sunscreen. It will be warm enough for snakes and bugs. Stay alert. Safety brief on site.

What to Collect --- stream worn cobbles from 2 inches to 8 inches in diameter --- unakite (a granite of green epidote, pink feldspar and blue/white/black quartz. Takes a high polish. Perfect for lapidary projects.), blue quartz (a gray-blue quartz that takes a high polish. Some will “star”), metabasalt (a maroon colored jasper with specks of green epidote (will polish nicely). Native American artifacts – both projectile points and at least 1 grooved tomahawk have been found at this location on previous field trips.

Recommended Equipment --- Hip or chest waders if you plan to stay dry. Otherwise, sturdy shoes/boots with ankle support that you don't mind getting wet (think slippery, wet rocks), long pants, long sleeved shirt, gloves (thin with rubber palms are good), safety glasses as necessary, rock hammer (to pry out rocks when needed), a sturdy backpack to carry your rocks back across the river (so you can walk “hands free”), 5 gal. bucket. Optional -- long handled “potato fork” to retrieve cobbles from stream (BE CAREFUL OF SHARP METAL POINTS), pry bar. Your best tools are sharp eyes. Clothing --- expect to get wet. Leave your “not waterproof” electronics in the car. Daytime temps in 70's. Rain poncho nice to have. Bottled water/snacks. A towel and dry clothes to change into after the trip.

Vehicles --- only three (3) high clearance vehicles will be allowed to park at the site --- all other vehicles must remain in town.

Fees --- As a “good will gesture”, please provide one (1) polished (and labeled) cabochon of unakite (preferred) (or other local material) to give to the landowner. Polished cabs mounted in a “finding” (brooch, pin, etc.) are even better. The “Mrs.” likes rocks and she will really appreciate any “rock gifts”.

Sign-up List --- Sign up by email or at the April (26th) club meeting. If sign up by email, send to dave.lines@earthlink.net --- Please provide your name, cell phone #, email address. [**If you sign up and later find you cannot make the trip, **tell Dave Lines at** (240) 427-7062.] (Space may be limited, so sign up early.)

Group Travel --- Carpooling is encouraged. As soon as we get a list of attendees, I will provide a list of attendees in order to facilitate carpooling.

The FOSSIL Project Webinar Series Invitation Letter

Hello! The FOSSIL Project, in partnership with the iDigBio Project and other organizations, is planning a series of free online webinars aimed at the amateur and professional paleontological communities. This will be a monthly series, starting Summer 2016. Webinars are online learning sessions led by a presenter with real-time input from participants. Each webinar would be (no more than) an hour long, optimally with half of the time devoted to a lead presentation followed by questions and discussion. We will likely use Adobe Connect™ to deliver the webinars; these will be recorded, archived, and freely available for non-commercial uses. The webinars would be promoted broadly and open to anyone interested. There would be no cost for attending, and participants could pick and choose which webinars they attend - or watch archived versions. Participants would be expected to provide feedback about the webinars via an e-survey at the end of each session.

We need your help! We want to make sure that the webinar series covers material that reflects the community’s desires. To ensure this, we have created a survey. Please complete the survey by May 10, 2016 (use link below for access). The more responses we get, the better, so please forward this message to any interested folks you know.

https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dnajlJSXi1SHm4Z

Thank you for your help and suggestions as we prepare for this webinar series! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Appreciatively,
Eleanor

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A Pleistocene Hand-Axe

**Willow Grove Nature Center's
PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY
WEEKEND
"Baltimore County, Maryland"
APRIL 30- MAY 1, 2016**

**Attention all Professional and Avocational Flintknappers,
Living History Practitioners, Traditional Archers,
Archaeologists and the Public at Large**

You are invited to the **Willow Grove Nature Center's 1st Annual Primitive Technology Workshop** for the purpose of sharing knowledge and hands-on experience in the replication of items composed of stone, bone, wood, and natural fibers. We will be featuring guest speakers and presenters who will share their specialties with us during the course of the weekend. On Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1, the Willow Grove Nature Center has been set aside for the Primitive Technology Weekend. The programs will run from 10 AM to 4 PM on both days.

Presenters, participants, and visitors are asked to bring their self bows, flu-flu arrows, and rubber blunt arrows for a fun and exciting Sunday morning bow shoot. The shoot starts at 8:00 AM and features aerial targets and a roving course throughout large meadow.

If interested in camping during this workshop, please call to register \$5.00/person is due on arrival, or you may mail in your check. **All children must be accompanied by at least one parent - no exceptions. For a number of very good reasons, we prefer no pets be brought to this event.**

Remember to bring your own food and drinks, as there will NOT be a caterer on site. We will have our usual coffee and snacks tent set up for all participants.

Contact: Cromwell Valley Park, 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Parkville, MD, 21234.
Phone: 410-887-2503, Monday – Friday from 9 AM to 2 PM, **Fax:** 410-823-5857.
Email: info@cromwellvalleypark.org

OR

Contact: F. Kirk Dreier, Senior Naturalist at Cromwell Valley Park.
Phone: 410-887-2503, **Fax:** 410-823-5857, **Email:** kdreier@baltimorecountymd.gov

Should you require special accommodations (i.e., language interpreter, large print, etc.) please give as much notice as possible by calling the CV Park office at 410.887.2503, or the Therapeutic office at 410.887.5370.





The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

Meetings take place on the 4th
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**

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