

Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



Rock Talk



May, 2016

Message from the Acting President

Bob Davison

This will be the last meeting before the Region IV Potluck Picnic and Swap Meet/Sale so we need to finalize the plan.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks from parking control to sign making. I hope you will be able to come to the meeting and help make this a successful event.

Field trips are what make our club successful. I hope you have been able to participate in some of the ones Dave has set up. He's got two trips scheduled for June 4th including the Vulcan Manassas Quarry, which was closed to us for a while. If you want to go to a place close by, don't miss this one.

Bob

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Next Meeting:
May 24, 2016@7:00 PM

Program:
DVD, Origin of the Universe (cont.)

Refreshments:
Timothy Foard

APRIL MINUTES

Submitted by Rick Simcsak

DATE: Meeting was called to order on April 26, at 7:20 pm by Bob Davidson. Don Werner passed away on April 15th. He joined both Rock and Lapidary clubs. Dave suggested donation of \$50 to scholarship service this coming Friday (29th) in Charlotte Hall, Md.

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: John Balasz, who attended the meeting in February.

MEMBERSHIP: 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. Glenda sent email out to members.

MINUTES: Accepted as written.

TREASURER: No change.

PROGRAMS: DVD on “Origin of the Universe”, Part 1 presented at meeting.

NEWSLETTERS: Was sent out earlier today.

WEBMASTER: No report

FIELD TRIPS: Tina and Harry reported on the Sterling Hill Super Dig: lots of rocks, Tina got people sick! Informative tour. Upcoming trips: May 7—Vulcan Garroisonville Quarry, joint trip with Montgomery County Club. Must sign waiver! Must follow guidelines! May 14—Madison, Virginia Robinson River to collect unakite and blue quartz. There is limited parking. Email sent out earlier. Meet at McDonald’s at 800AM. Gifts made of unakite to be given to property owners as “fee”. May 14-20—Tina and Harry to Herkimer, New York. June 4—field trip to Vulcan Manassas Quarry.

OLD BUSINESS: 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. Email senout today by Eastern Federation. Sign up sheet for Voluntrres for duties. Advertising in full bloom!

NEW BUSINESS: Signing the documents discussion, maybe something for the club in the future.

ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Upcoming Shows and Events:**2016**

4 – 5: 2016 Annual Mineral, Gem, Jewelry, Fossil Show, Sell & Swap sponsored by the Orange Co. Mineral Society. Museum Village, 1010 Rt 17M; Monroe, NY. Co

4: 2016 Spring Mineralfest – 66th Semi-Annual Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. In

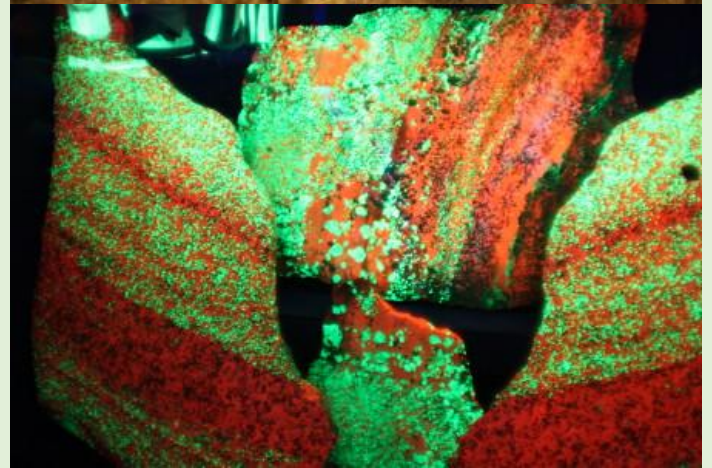
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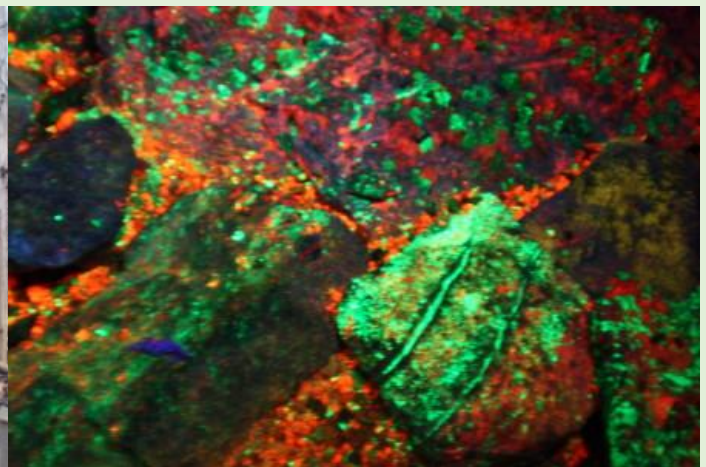
4-5: 23rd Annual GemFest 2016 sponsored by the Wayne County Gem & Mineral club. Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 N Bloomfield Rd; Canandaigua, NY.

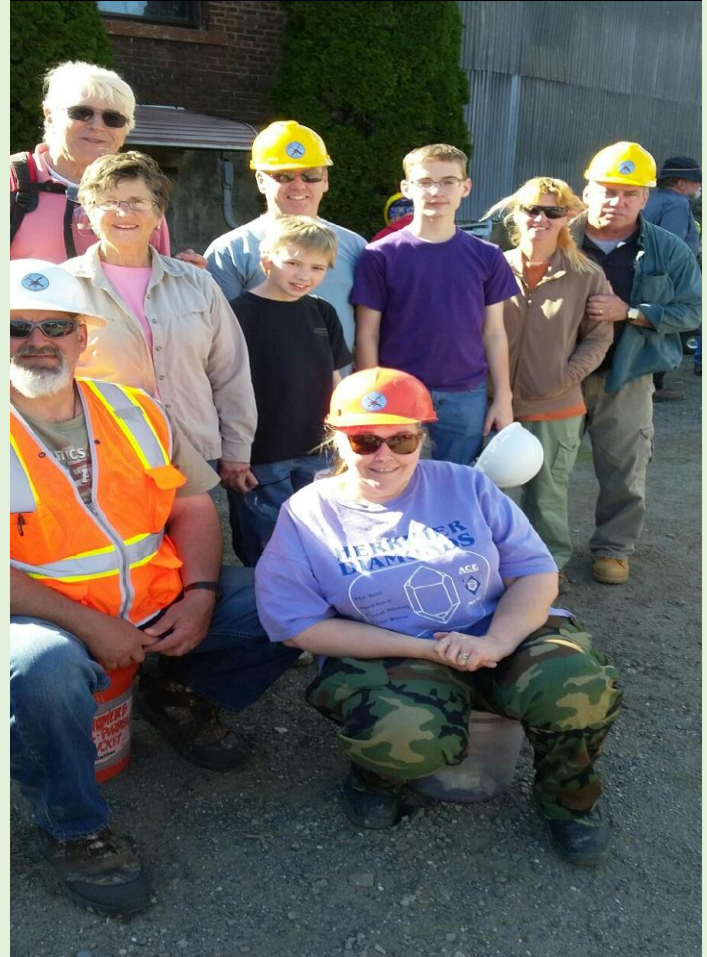
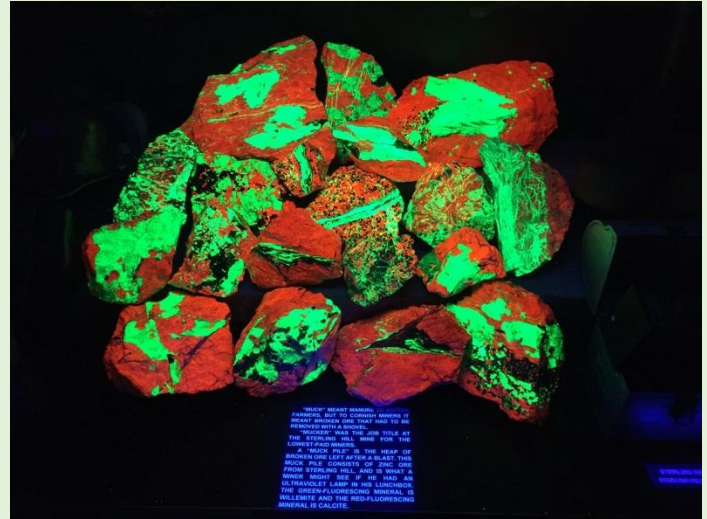
17-18: Annual Fossil & Mineral Show sponsored by the Lancaster Co. Fossil & Mineral Club. Lancaster Co., PA.

The 2016 Sterling Hill Super Dig

Photos by Al and Carole Rauchisen, Harry and Tina League, and Timothy Foard







Sterling Hill Super Dig 2016

by Tina League, photos by Tina and Harry League



On April 23, 2016 SMRMC members Tim, Joe, Paula, Al, Carole, Harry, Tina, and SHMM members Bryant, Reid and Jack (Tina's brother and nephews) ventured to Ogdensburg, New Jersey for the annual Sterling Hill Super Dig. The "glowhounds" were there to collect fluorescent minerals such as Willemite, Franklinite, Gahnite, Calcite, Mimetite, Wollastonite, Esperite and Aragonite; just to name a few of the minerals that were produced from the 70 years of zinc ore mining at Sterling Hill.

Tim got to the mine early and began collecting in the pit area. After everyone signed in and donned their required safety equipment: hard hats, gloves and UV glasses, and completed orientation it was time to start the tours. The first tour for our group (minus Tim who was determined to collect as much material as he could during the

day), was of the museum and lower mine. The museum has an outstanding collection of minerals from the mine and all over the world. We were given a brief history lesson on the life that the miners had to endure and of the types of minerals that were produced from Sterling Hill. There are many pictures and artifacts documenting the operation of the mine. The fluorescent mineral display room was very well laid out and educational.

After visiting the museum it was time to tour the lower mine. We marched up to the opening of the mine and prepared to go "underground". This part of the mine has been used for tours for many years and is very safe and well lit. Our tour guide was very enthusiastic and informative. She led us through several chambers including the Lamp Room, the Shaft Station, the Blasting Demonstration and others and explained in great detail what the miners lives were like working in the 35 miles of dark tunnels. The "floor" that we were on was at ground level and the only one that wasn't under water. We were able to peer down a shaft and see the glassy water that was so still it looked like frozen ice in the chamber below us. We spent over an hour walking through the mine and learning all we could. One small "room" had a beautiful "rainbow" display when lit up with large UV lights.



Upon completion of the lower mine tour we had an hour before the next tour. We spent the time collecting in the mine dump area near the registration tent and gift shop. We grabbed a snack at the car before the upper mine tour where I ran into Tim who had come up for air and was taking a load of rocks to his car. I talked him in to going on the upper mine tour with the rest of the group. I didn't want him to miss out on the fun! I sat that tour out due to the stomach flu that I had that day...ugh. Paula was kind enough to stay back and hang out with me while the rest of the group went up the hill to the upper mine. The upper mine and mill tour consists of a long hike up stairs to the top of the mill and a very long way along the conveyor belt where you can pick a specimen off of the belt from that last day of production. It is quite a sight when you look out of the windows on the platform several stories above the mine and get a birds eye view of the area.

When the group returned from the upper mine it was time for the door prize drawings. Well over a hundred people gathered in front of the registration tent anxiously awaiting their lucky number to be drawn. "Way Too Cool" company donated several UV lamps for prizes. Jack and Reid both won nice prizes from the children's tickets. At that point it was dinner time, so Joe, Paula, Carole and Al went into town to get some dinner and a break before the nighttime collecting. Bryant, Reid, Jack, Harry and Tina geared up and went down to the mine to start some serious collecting. Tim was there working hard and having a great time. The boys learned how hard the rocks were when they began to chisel away at the boulders all around them. They got their exercise breaking rock and then hauling their buckets up the hill to check them in the blackout tent with UV lights. The rest of the group arrived back at the mine collecting area just before dark. Joe had his large UV light ready to go. I had a large UV light for Bryant and the boys to carry around and check rocks once it got dark. As soon as it got dark enough for the UV lights to show the colors in the boulders, everyone

got very busy breaking rocks and filling their buckets. The "wall" was lit up around 9:00 p.m. There was only a small section that actually lit up (technical difficulties with the extra large UV lamps). Everyone gathered around to see the "rainbow wall"..oohd and awhd...and went back to collecting. Well after 10:00 p.m. it was time for the weary glowhounds to pack up and check out for the evening. The temperature had dropped enough to chase the boys back to the warmth of their car. I had already gone back to the car earlier due to chills from the flu fever. We said our goodbyes and headed back to the hotel.

The next day Carole, Al, Joe, Paula, Harry and Tina went to the NJESA Gem & Mineral Show in Franklin, New Jersey. There were many vendors inside and outside of the Elementary School. There were plenty of local specimens for sale and many more from all over the world. We spent several hours at the show and then headed out for the long drive home.

A First Timer at the Sterling Hill Super Dig

Timothy Foard, photos by Timothy Foard



There were two big events involving minerals on the weekend of April 23-24: the Atlantic Micromounters Conference in Alexandria, Virginia and the Sterling Hill Super Dig in Ogdensburg, New Jersey. I had

never attended either and wanted to participate in both events. Why would both be scheduled for the same weekend? I explained my dilemma to Steve and Carolyn Weinberger and Carolyn suggested that I go to the Super Dig and there will be another local micromounter's conference (the Desautels, in Baltimore) I can attend in the fall. I liked her suggestion.

On line registration is required, as the Super Dig is limited to 200 participants, and shortly after doing so (I was roughly the 116th registrant), the letters began arriving by email. These were the "Tripmaster Letters", which provided answers to many of the Frequently Asked Questions regarding this upcoming event. Some of these letters were several pages long and loaded with info; others were reminder letters only a couple of pages long. It did had the effect of generating a great deal of anxiety for me, because even with the helpful info preceding the actual event, I still did not know what to expect once I arrive regarding actually collecting in the site itself. I expected a lot of digging to recover a couple of decent specimens because I thought by now the site will be near repletion from decades of collecting. That's was my initial thoughts anyway.

I will need a UV light source to take to the field. Although I was informed that lights will be available for examination of finds, I envisioned waiting in line just to view a handful of rocks. I ordered one about 2 weeks before departing for the event only to discover that I purchased a lamp emits the wrong wavelength of UV light. Instead of purchasing a short-wave light source—one which produce UV with a wavelength of 254 nanometers (nm), I obtained one that emits UV light with a wavelength of 395 nm, which is considered long-wave UV! It turn out that most florescent minerals (>90% of them) do so under short wave UV. I now have to put in an expensive rush order to acquire a short wave light in time for the event. Okay, lesson learned!

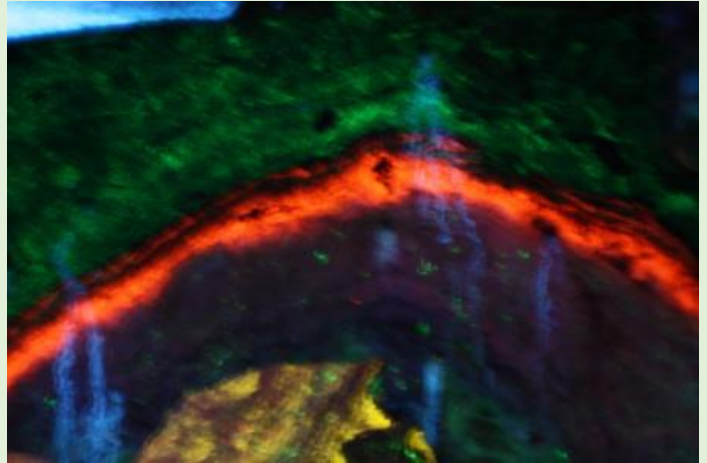
I left for New Jersey the day before the event after putting a half-day at work. I expected to arrive at the hotel in Parsippany before peak rush hour, but got turned around somewhere near the Rutgers University area. I managed to get back on course and pulled into the hotel parking area around 6 that evening.

The day of the Dig I rose early, too early for breakfast at the hotel and headed out for Sterling Hill, about a half-hour's drive away. I was early—too early in fact, as the area will not be open for collecting for another two hours. I signed in and used the remaining time to explore the area. One of the volunteers was kind enough to show me what to look for when he picked up a couple of rocks from the Mine Run Dump near to the visitor's parking and took me to the darkroom containing a scale and UV light area. Two of the rocks did not fluoresce at all, but the third one brightly fluoresced red and green. He commented, "That's a keeper. Hold on to that one so you can pay for it after you get others", which I did. By now more people were beginning to arrive. Many were carrying wagons and buckets strapped on dollies and were beginning to line up at the entrance waiting for the time to access the area. Those I met were mainly from the New York City area; one group of collectors from Vermont was waiting. So far, I haven't seen any of the Southern Maryland club members—Tina, Harry, Carol, Al, Paula, and Joe—but I expect to run into them soon.



When the mine was finally opened for collecting, most of the people began streaming into the path leading into the Passiac Pit Area, with some peeling off into the Mine Run Dump to search. The pit area was certainly large enough to accommodate collectors without the appearance of overcrowding, and with my unnecessarily expensive short wave lamp and a heavy duty garbage bag to create a miniature darkroom, I began searching for the rocks that glow. To my surprise, they were more common than I anticipated, and it didn't take long to collect a sizable load. Since all specimens collected will cost \$1.50 per pound, I had to choose them carefully. Also, since I didn't have a wagon to cart my findings—I prefer nylon and heavy duty cloth bags to transport specimens—it was time to carry the first load, along with the one found earlier with the volunteer, to the weighing tent. First load—20 pounds.

I returned to the pit area, this time to search for micros, whether or not they fluoresce. It was at this time I saw my fellow club members. Tina mentioned a tour coming up in about an hour, so I continued the search in hopes of finishing in time to take the tour. As often with collecting, it is sometimes not easy to pull away in time to make it to the other event. I found nothing that stood out as far as micros; a greenish mineral which may be malachite, and some vuggy material which may have crystals inside. I rushed back to the weight station with my second load—15 pounds.



I missed the tour, but another one will start in about 3 hours and a different tour—the lower mine and museum tour—will start in about an hour. I ate a quick lunch: the Super Dig Special, which consisted of two sausage dogs and a drink for five dollars. The tour was about to start. The museum was packed with specimens and artifacts, but very impressive for its size. We were given the opportunity to explore the place and were sent on a scavenger hunt to find artifacts based on the clues. I would have loved to stay at the museum much longer, but this was only part of the tour. The lower mine tour did give me a glimpse of what it is like to work as a miner. It turned out that miners themselves were collectors, and the habit was not discouraged by the company. From time to time the collections of former miners become available and are eagerly sought out by dealers and collectors for purchase. Two of the stops along the lower mine tour besides the museum I especially liked were the blast room, where a re-enactment of the rock-blasting sequence in extracting rough ore material and tunnel boring was performed, and the rainbow room, where an installed UV light revealed a florescent rainbow among the other color patterns in the wall. We all took turns snapping photos, moving aside so others can enjoy the view.



I really enjoyed the lower mine tour, and now I felt the tug of heading back into the pit area to search for more minerals. However, the other tour, the upper mine tour, was to start in about a half-hour, which left me no time to trek back to the pit. There was a much larger crowd for this tour, in part due to the time of the day, when it warmed considerably. The upper mine tour pertained to what happens to the ore after it left the tunnel. The mine ceased operation in 1986, and there were still pieces of zinc ore on the crusher conveyor belt from that last day. We were allowed to select one specimen and were later given a certificate of authenticity for that rock at the end of the tour.



After the tour ended I was ready to return to the pit. I searched in a different area from where I was searching earlier in the day. Most of the florescent minerals I saw were calcite, which glows red, and willemite, which gives off a green light under short

wave. Not all of the calcite present there fluoresces and you cannot tell which does by looking at them. Franklinite, named after the nearby Franklin mine, does not florescence at all. In visible light, all of these minerals are a rather unassuming light to dark gray or black in color. Some of the rocks resemble chocolate chip cookie dough, the franklinite being the “chips”. Some of the rocks had the appearance of a dried metallic mud. There were other minerals which give off other colors, such as scheelite (white) and sphalerite (yellow), but they are not as common as calcite and willemite, but persistence pays off. By this time it was late evening and the bag was getting heavy, so I hauled my third load back to the weighing tent: 37 pounds.

Back to the pit area for a final time and chatted with the other club members, who had also arrived for some night collecting. I cannot think of a better way to top off a day of collecting florescent minerals than to spend a night collecting them! Tina pointed me in the direction where they had earlier found rainbow rocks—those with minerals which glow red, green, blue, and yellow. I didn’t find any at the area where they found it earlier, but some at a far corner of the pit. In addition to searching for other colors, I looked for variations and patterns in the more familiar reds and greens, the rationale being other minerals beside calcite and willemite respectively produce red and green glows, especially considering that this phenomenon occurs in about one fourth of the 357 known minerals from this area. A section of the pit’s wall was lit, displaying the colors on the wall. The temperature had dropped a lot from the afternoon, and finally around 10 PM I decided to wrap it up for the day. The fourth and final weigh-in: 21 pounds.

Back at the car I took a photo of one of the rocks I found and send it to few friends back home (Member’s Finds). I packed it up and headed back to the hotel. Early the next morning I headed back home.

I had heard a few veteran collectors lament on how disappointed they were not finding the rare minerals or that a lot of material was sold overseas. Maybe there is some truth to their concerns, but I think there will always exist a generation of rockhounds who will experience this for the first time and for this group, these “common rocks” will continue not only to capture their interest, but also inspire them to further pursue this facet of their hobby. I had taken the short wave lamp on subsequent field trips following my experience at Sterling Hill.

The birth of a glow hound.



“The Rose River Fairy”

by Dave Lines, photos by Dave Lines and Rick Simcsak



“Once upon a time, there was a little fairy rock who lived in the Rose River near the tiny village of Syria in Madison County, Virginia --- not that it mattered a great deal to the little fairy rock what the name of the village was or the name of the county or even that it was in a state. You see, the little fairy rock had been around for a very long time --- a very long time indeed. In fact, the little fairy rock had been created many millions of years ago deep inside what are now called the Appalachian Mountains. So the little fairy rock had seen its share of events and changes. Oh my! What BIG CHANGES the little fairy rock had seen! The mountains in which the little fairy rock had begun its existence were much larger than they are today --- MUCH larger and MUCH taller. Well, as everyone knows, time has a way of changing

things. Rain falls; some runs off; some causes erosion; some of the rain seeps into the soil and into the rocks; freezing water inside the rocks causes cracks to begin; big rocks break into little rocks; the rocks that were on top of the mountain eventually fall further down the mountain --- and the process repeats itself --- over and over and over. For millions of years. Big mountains become small mountains.

And that, my friends, is exactly how the little fairy rock began its journey from inside the mountain. The journey came in many starts and stops. Some moves were only a few millimeters --- some a few feet --- and when a big earthquake or a roaring flood came, the little fairy rock sometimes moved quite a distance. And the time between moves varied greatly --- from as little as every few years to as long as thousands of years. And conditions for the little rock between moves were different --- always different. Sometimes the little rock was buried deep beneath dirt and other rocks where it was always dark and cold. Often, for centuries at a time, the little rock remained buried and never saw the sunlight. But when it was very, very lucky, the little fairy rock would land right on top of the ground where it could experience days and nights and winters and summers and falls and springs. It liked springtime the best. Definitely springtime.

One day, the little fairy rock fell down into a tiny stream. It was a nice stream and it had lots of clean water. That stream became larger when it joined other streams. And before long, many streams joined together to become a river --- the Rose River. The river had lots of water and it flowed pretty fast and when it rained at great deal in a short time, the water flowed very fast. On those occasions, the current flowed fast enough to pick up small rocks and move them quickly downriver. If it rained hard enough for long enough, the river would flood and the water flowed so strongly that even very large rocks would be swept away. Of course, as you can imagine, these floods were pretty scary for the little rock fairy.

Huge rocks were smashing into other rocks everywhere. These floods did not happen often, but when they did --- watch out! Everything changed in a short time. The water became muddy and filled with debris like uprooted trees and rocks could move a long way.

The little rock fairy remembered lots of floods, but the flood on June 27, 1995 was a real doozy. It rained over 30 inches in just a single day. The little rock fairy overheard people say that flood was a 500 or a 1,000 year event --- which meant that it only happened once every 500 or more years. Well, that flood certainly changed everything for the little rock fairy because it was swept completely out of the Rose River into the Robinson River.

And wouldn't you know, it landed right on top of a gravel bar.

Of course, the Rose River and the Robinson River were also the home of a whole host of rocks and these rocks were of many different varieties. The little rock fairy was a very observant sort. The little rock fairy noticed that sometimes people would pick up some of the other rocks and toss them into the river. And sometimes people would take them away. As a matter of fact, the little rock fairy noticed that the rock variety called "unakite" seemed to be a favorite. And people sometimes picked up a rock called "blue quartz". There was another one called "metabasalt" – a funny looking rock that was made of maroon colored jasper with yellow-green epidote scattered throughout. That made the little rock fairy a bit jealous because the little rock wondered why it was never picked.

Well, it just so happened that unbeknown to the little rock fairy, a group of people, who called themselves the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club, planned a field trip to the Robinson River where they hoped to find unakite and blue quartz and other rocks. And you know what? These folks --- nine of them --- Dave, Rich, Joe, Ralph B., Paul and his wife

Linda, John P., John B. and his son Carlos --- all came to the very same gravel bar where the little rock fairly was sitting right on top. They were a very enthusiastic bunch and, as soon as they arrived, they started looking at the rocks on the gravel bar. They immediately began picking up rocks. They loved rocks. And there were rocks everywhere. All kinds of rocks. They were so excited about finding rocks that it was difficult to get them to stand still and look at the camera long enough to get a group picture. But they finally did.



By the way, the weather that Spring morning in May of 2016 was gorgeous --- sunny and bright --- and warm enough, but not too warm. It was just right. The little rock fairy was also excited to see so many people that loved rocks. "Perhaps, this time, someone will find --- and keep --- me", thought the little rock. But the little rock fairy, was also a worried, because he heard someone say, "That one is a leaverite --- just leave 'er right there!" The little rock fairy was very concerned --- "What if they decide I am just a leaverite?"



The weather forecast that day said that thunderstorms with rain and strong winds were going to come about mid-day, so, by noon, everyone had finished looking and started comparing what they had found. There was a good deal of unakite and metabasalt found and Joe found a very large piece of blue quartz. Everyone found some good rocks --- even the two new pebble pups --- John B. and Carlos --- found some good ones. In fact, they did super.

But you know what? The neatest rock was just a little one. Paul and Linda found it. It had a “face” on it --- two red eyes made of red jasper. And a little circular red mouth --- like someone saying “ooooo”.”



[* This story might sound like a fairy tale, but the events recorded are all true.]

Field Trip Report: Vulcan Garrisonville Quarry

Timothy Foard, photos by Dave Lines



On May 7 members from three local clubs: the Montgomery County, Northern Virginia and the Southern Maryland Club converged on the grounds of the Vulcan Quarry in Garrisonville, Virginia for a morning of collecting. After a mine safety briefing, we drove our vehicles down into the quarry and proceeded to explore the area for minerals. It didn't take long for the sound of hammers and chisels to fill the morning air. The rocks in this quarry contain numerous small cavities and cracks which allow the growth of small crystals. Micros were quite abundant at this site. Calcite was abundant, mostly as small crystals up to half an inch long, and sprinkled with tiny pyrite crystals, a few in the pyritohedron crystal habit. Massive pyrite also occurred in the host rock. The area quarries are known for zeolites such as stilbite, and some of the collectors were not disappointed. Dave found a laumontite crystal an inch long. One of the unusual finds was made by Eric of the Northern Virginia club—large (2-3 inches) crystal of amphibole embedded in the basaltic host rock.



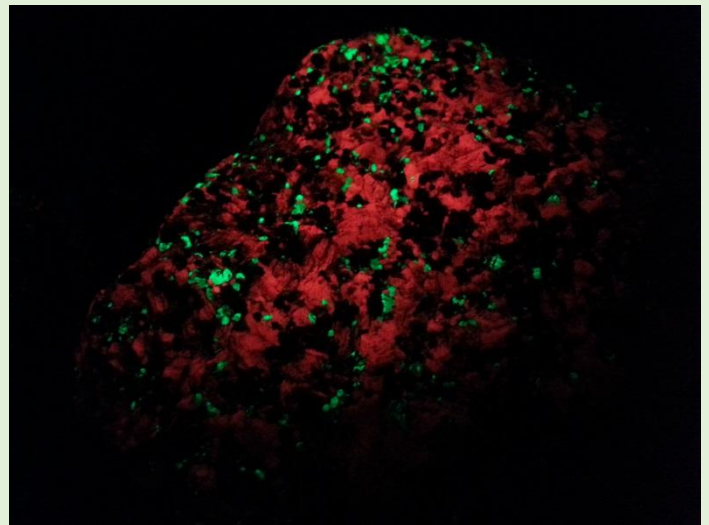
Walter Schomburg on his first quarry trip found calcite, pyrite, and quartz and Paula and Joe collected stilbite crystals and some rocks for the yard. Sam also found some stilbite on dolomite as well as laumontite. I found micro crystals of a green mineral—either amphibole or epidote—on calcite and what appeared to be filiform pyrite, also in micro form.



It was soon time to leave the quarry. I found this site to be productive, despite the fact that many of the minerals occurred as small crystals. I will certainly visit this quarry again if I get the opportunity. We thanked the quarry representative and headed home.

Member's Finds

The photo below is one of the calcite (red)-willemite (green)- franklinite (black) specimens, viewed under short wave UV light, collected at the Sterling Hill Super Dig. This is the specimen I sent to my friends and family members shortly before leaving the mine for the night.



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.

Official Club Field Trip Notice

Subj: Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club(*) Field Trip to Vulcan Manassas Quarry on Saturday June 4, 2011 from 7:00 a.m. - noon

(* This trip hosted by Montgomery County will include invited current members from other local EFMLS clubs.)

Meeting Time --- **Meet at the Quarry Office parking lot at 7:00 a.m. (no later!!)** for Safety Briefing and signing waiver forms

Trip Leader --- Dave Lines

Location --- Vulcan Materials at the Manassas Quarry, Manassas, VA (8537 Vulcan Lane, Manassas, VA 20109)

Directions --- (1) From D.C. and Maryland area, take Washington Beltway (I-495) to I-66 (west) to Manassas Exit 44. Go south on Rt 234 (Bypass) for 3.3 miles. Turn Left on Wellington Rd. (at light) --- go ½ mile and turn left on Vulcan Road. Cross railroad tracks and take immediate right into office parking lot.

Safety --- Vulcan requires **steel-toed boots, hardhat, safety glasses, long pants and heavy gloves and bright colored safety vest.** Stay clear of all high walls.

Note to Experienced members --- please keep a watch on all of us and say something to those who may not recognize danger before they get into trouble.

What to Collect --- Prehnite, datolite, byssolite, pyrite, pectolite, apophyllite, other zeolites. Good micros.

Equipment/ clothing --- Full safety gear --- steel toed shoes/boots, safety glasses, hardhat, work gloves --- rock hammer, 3 - 4 pound crack hammer, chisels, 5 gal. bucket, old newspaper for wrapping specimens, small pry bar. Optional -- large sledge hammer, long pry bar, extra buckets. Your best tools are sharp eyes. Clothing depends on the weather --- coveralls recommended. Rain poncho nice to have.

Quarry Description / Hints --- Manassas Quarry is a trap rock quarry -- large square, deep hole in the ground with multiple levels. The predominate rock is dark gray diabase which is mined for crushed rock for road construction. Prehnite is the main thing we will try to find --- **Hint:** look for a white or light green streak of color in the gray rock and examine carefully. Breaking that rock open may reveal a pocket of light green prehnite. Prehnite is not abundant here, so it has been a hit or miss thing. On the other hand, we have always (Lord willin') found some nice specimens of something to make the trip worth-while. **Hint** --- Carefully search and *investigate anything that is different.*

Vehicles --- We will be allowed to drive our vehicles into the quarry. The roads are generally good --- wide and relatively smooth --- but sometimes with water standing in pools on the lowest level. If it is wet and muddy, consider carpooling with someone who has a truck or SUV.

Misc. --- Drinking water, sunscreen, snacks, "Thank" the quarry rep. Bring signed Waiver from Montgomery Club.

Sign-up List --- Sign up at the May 24th club meeting or by email to dave.lines@earthlink.net

****If you sign up and later find that cannot make the trip, **call Dave at 240-427-7062** and tell him.

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.

SMRMC OFFICERS

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(position open)

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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.

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We're on the web:

SMRMC.org