

# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## Rock Talk



## February, 2019

**Next Meeting:**  
**February 26, 2019@7:00 PM**

**Program:**  
Geode Cracking  
Jim White

**Refreshments:**  
Ralph Gamba  
**Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift  
Road, Clinton, MD.**

### JANUARY MINUTES

Submitted by Cheryl Reese

**DATE:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Sondra Fielder, President.

**VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS:**  
None

**MEMBERSHIP:** No report though Joe once again reminded us that membership dues are now based on one year from when you signed up and not January to January.

**NEWSLETTER:** Nothing to report.

**TREASURER:** Dave has still not been reimbursed from MNCPPC for our club insurance thru the eastern federation, nor did he take the additional \$24.77 for overnight delivery from the treasury that was voted on and approved of at meeting in November 2018.

**FIELD TRIPS:** No field trips planned till weather breaks, maybe March. A suggestion to go to a location in Virginia to find rockbridge was discussed. Future trips

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may be Vulcan Manassas Quarry, Garrisonville and Chestnut Ridge. Several members took advantage of the blowout tides on Jan 10th 2019 along the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac river shores. Dave and Rich went to Matoaka Cabins and Purse State Park finding lots of shell and fossils and Patuxent river rock and few teeth. Joe found a lot of fossils, teeth, Indian points, etc. along the Potomac river and Cheryl found 3 large vertebrae on Willows beach in Calvert County.

**PROGRAMS:** Carole passed around sign-up sheet for 2019 programs and refreshments. Tonight's program was Roadside Geology of Ancient Greece given by Tim Foard and refreshments provided by Carole and Al. February meeting will be geode cracking with Jim White, so bring all your geodes. Refreshments provided by Ralph Gamba.

**WEBSITE:** Everything up to date.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNED:** Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm, followed by refreshments and the program

### ITEMS WANTED/FOR SALE

For Sale – Virginia unakite slabs (approx ¼ inch thick) – \$0.50 per square inch (this is half off regular price). Call Dave (240) 427-7062.

For Sale – SMRMC Only 4 remaining t-shirts for sale: size small (1) at \$9.00; and large (3), also at \$9.00 each Contact Tina @ [htleague@comcast.net](mailto:htleague@comcast.net)

### UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS 2019

**March: 2 - 3: Annual Delaware Mineral Society Show hosted by the Delaware Mineral Society. NEW Location: Doubletree by Hilton (next to Concord Mall) 4727 Concord Pike (Route 202), Wilmington, DE 19803. INFO: <http://www.delminisociety.net/marchshow/marchshow.htm>**

**March 8-9: Leidy Microscopical Society Micromount Symposium, Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill, Rd, Richboro, PA 18954. [www.donmcalarnen@outlook.com](mailto:www.donmcalarnen@outlook.com)**

**March 16-17, 2019: 55<sup>th</sup> Annual GLMSMC Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. [glmsmc.com/show.shtml](http://glmsmc.com/show.shtml)**

**March 23-24<sup>th</sup> 50th Annual Rock & Mineral Show presented by the Che-Hanna Rock &**

**Mineral Club. Wysox Volunter Fire Co, 111 Lake Rd., Wysox, PA.**

**March 30-31: Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA (PA Turnpike, exit 333 or I-476, exit 20). Info: [www.phillyrocks.org](http://www.phillyrocks.org)**

### Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News

## Montana measure aims to clarify ownership rights of fossils

By AMY BETH HANSON

<https://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/2019/02/06/montana-measure-aims-clarify-ownership-rights-fossils/2797304002/>



**FILE** - In this Nov. 14, 2013 file photo, one of two "dueling dinosaur" fossils is displayed in New York. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File) (Photo: Seth Wenig, AP)

**HELENA** — A legal challenge over the ownership of valuable dinosaur fossils unearthed on an eastern Montana ranch has prompted legislation seeking to clarify that fossils are part of a property's surface rights, not its mineral rights.

Supporters told the state House Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday that federal agencies and state lands policies differentiate between minerals and fossils — and it's time state law followed suit.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in November that the fossils of two dinosaurs that appeared to have been locked in battle when they died are made up of minerals and are part of the property's mineral estate, which is partially owned by brothers Jerry and Bo Severson.

Mary Ann and Lige Murray, who own the surface rights and a small portion of the mineral rights, are asking for a full panel of the appeals court to hear the case or send it to the Montana Supreme Court for a decision on the ownership of the "Dueling Dinosaurs" — the fossilized remains of the 22-foot-long theropod and a 28-foot-long ceratopsian.

The Murrays spoke in favor of the bill sponsored by Rep. Brad Hamlett, D-Cascade.

"This legislation may not affect our case, but this legislation will help all of those other landowners in Montana who have sold fossils and could now be sued by the mineral rights owners," Mary Ann Murray said.

Other eastern Montana landowners, paleontologists, museum directors and real estate brokers testified in favor of the bill, saying claims by mineral-rights holders could

jeopardize previous sales and future scientific research.

The Seversons urged the committee to reject the bill.

Attorney Shane Swindle said ownership of the fossils became a legal issue when the Murrays sought to sell the fossil. He said would-be buyers wanted to make sure the surface and mineral owners both agreed to the transaction "because the law was insufficient."

A federal judge in Montana found the fossils belonged to the surface estate.

"The composition of minerals found in the fossils does not make them valuable or worthless," U.S. District Judge Susan Watters of Billings wrote. "Instead the value turns on characteristics other than mineral composition, such as the completeness of the specimen, the species of dinosaur and how well it is preserved."

The Seversons appealed to the 9th Circuit.

"We see (in the 9th Circuit ruling) that there's been a misstatement of what we believe Montana law is and what private property rights are, what surface rights are and what mineral rights are and we want it clarified or we'll be in court forever," Hamlett, the bill's sponsor, said Tuesday.

The Dueling Dinosaurs were put up for auction in New York in November 2013, but bidding topped out at \$5.5 million, less than the \$6 million reserve price. Other valuable fossils have been found on the Murrays' ranchland.

## A Winter Rock Odyssey

Article and photos by Dave Lines

It all started when my wife Ann woke up with a fever and a bad cold on a Monday morning in late January. We had already made rental car reservations and had our plane tickets, so Ann went to her doctor and whatever he prescribed worked because she was fit as a fiddle when we took off from Baltimore BWI Airport at 6:30 a.m. that Thursday. By that time, we had changed our plans of staying several days with friends near Tucson because we did not want to give them colds. Instead, we sort of played it by ear after we reached Phoenix. During the next four days, we circumnavigated Arizona by rental car --- 830 miles total.

We decided that our first destination would be the Grand Canyon. While en route we made reservations by cell phone at the Bright Angel Lodge located right on the South Rim. Fortunately, thanks to funding by the Arizona state legislature, the park remained open despite the partial Federal government shutdown. We arrived about an hour before sunset and pulled into a huge, almost empty, parking lot. We left our car and walked along the sidewalk following the signs to the "Rim Trail".



That first view of the canyon is incredible. You are not prepared for its majesty. It literally takes your breath away. Words are inadequate. Wow! Awesome. Vast. Inspiring. Beautiful. Spectacular. The brochure said it is one of the seven wonders of the natural world. Easily. We spent the next two nights and one full day walking the rim trails and taking hundreds of pictures. At some of the overlooks, you can see more than 180 degrees of canyon at once. No camera can capture that grandeur. We took pics at sunrise, at mid-day and at sunset --- all were different. There was snow cover just about everywhere along the rim. It was cold --- teens at night and 30's during the day. The trails into the canyon --- already steep and narrow --- were ice covered. Too treacherous to attempt. Wildlife was both numerous and unafraid of humans. Deer and elk were common.



The geology is the real story. 5,000 feet deep and up to 20 miles wide. The Park extends for 227 miles along the Colorado River. The exposed layers of colorful rock range from 270 million years old at the top to almost 2 billion years old along the river below. Obviously, there were several episodes of seas covering the area judging from the different limestone layers. There were other

layers of sandstone. Of conglomerates. Of volcanic material. And yet they say the canyon itself was “only” 5 to 6 million years old. It boggles my mind. Interestingly, the river carries away 80 million tons of sediment each year. We enjoyed every minute of our visit.

On Saturday morning, we headed toward Holbrook, about 150 miles southeast. We drove through the foothills of the snow covered San Francisco Mountains. Through miles of snow covered ponderosa pine forest. Who knew that Arizona had so much snow? There was even a large ski resort. While enroute to Holbrook, we again used the iPhone to make arrangements to collect some petrified wood at a private ranch near the Petrified National Forest. The Park was closed due to the government shutdown. We called several places, but the most interesting was the Dobell Ranch owned by Rhonda Dobell. She is the real deal --- down to earth and genuine. Very hospitable and friendly, Rhonda is someone who when you first meet her, it seems like you have always known her. She gave us exact directions to her shop along Rt 180 south of Holbrook --- a turquoise colored building on the left just past mile marker 323. We called her again a few miles from our destination and she drove out to meet us in a white pickup truck. Her tiny shop was surrounded by large pieces of petrified wood and much “old stuff” of all description.



After exchanging greetings, we (in our rental car) followed her on a dirt road for about 3 miles across a more or less barren desert sparsely covered with very short, scrubby sagebrush. She led us to her “ranch” ---- a fenced 40 acre patch of red dirt dotted with rundown wooden buildings and old machinery plus one excavator which ran. Scattered across the ranch were various pits where someone had mined for petrified wood. All over the entire area were piles and rows of wood. There were tons and tons everywhere. But it had the look of a “salted” mine – it had already been dug and was left for us to pick through.

When we arrived at the dig site, Sharon asked what kind of wood I was looking for. I replied: “Two kinds --- small rounds and some solid material that could be flint knapped.” She showed me several areas, but I did not see anything that grabbed me. I asked the price. She said: “Pick out as much as you want and I’ll give you a price.” That was a bit unsettling, but the reviews online said she was very reasonable. I spent the next two hours looking at about half of the rock piles with my rock pick and canvas collecting bag. During that time she checked on me only once and left the ranch twice to drive out

to meet more customers. I needed to limit my weight since we were flying. Nevertheless, I filled my bag. When it came time to settle up, Sharon looked down in my bag and said “How about \$25?” I grinned, said “Great!”, shook her hand, thanked her and paid her price. Later I weighed the bag and it came out to 35 pounds. That was pretty good. The quality of the wood was decent --- not the best I have seen, but it had nice reds, with some yellows, blacks and grays. Some had the “outside bark” on one or more sides. I was satisfied.

That was Saturday afternoon. We then headed south toward Tucson along 100 miles of steep and winding mountainous roads through an Apache Indian reservation. Beautiful country. Heavily wooded. Deep rock canyons. Lots of switchbacks. Not a house or building could be seen from the highway. We stayed overnight in Globe.

The next day we headed south again --- stopping twice because it was “copper country” with numerous big mines. As we drove through the town of “Mammoth” (so named for a “mammoth copper strike”), Ann spotted some turquoise colored rocks back off the road. I turned around and, sure enough, there was a nice roadside park honoring those who had died while copper mining.



It was a neat exhibit of old mining equipment with memorial plaques and artistic monuments of rock and steel. It also had two large ore carts filled with bright turquoise blue colored chunks of ore. The copper ore had both surface coatings of malachite and veins up to one inch wide of chrysocolla --- all firmly secured in cement. Our second stop was a few miles outside of town at a railroad crossing. I checked out the rocks under the tracks and, as I had suspected, there were pieces of copper ore scattered throughout. It was fun to collect a few.

We spent the afternoon with friends in Tucson, then drove back to Phoenix and flew to Burbank, California the next morning. Then we drove north along Highway 101 to San Luis Obispo to visit Ann's sister where we stayed four nights. During the three days there, I visited with my rockhound friends and spent two days rockhounding.



First at Avila Beach for an unusual brecciated rhyolite with agate locally called "deedeite" for their rock club member "Dee Dee" that discovered it. It takes a great polish and under shortwave UV light, it fluoresces in several colors --- light green, orange, and cream plus the agate shows "fortifications" (distinct banding). My buddy --- Wes

Lingerfelt --- met me there a 11:30 a.m. --- about an hour before the predicted low tide which was necessary to get around the rocky point which otherwise cut off access to the small ocean cove beyond. Wes pointed out what to look for --- a band of clear to milky agate --- the thicker, the better --- impregnated with oatmeal colored pieces of rhyolite rock. We spent about two hours looking and actually did quite well --- enough to fill a medium flat rate box.

I spent the rest of the afternoon visiting with Wes at his house while looking through part of an estate he had purchased. I was interested in the 70 Riker mounts of various artifacts, including arrowheads. While most of the points seemed to be "modern made", I purchased one Riker mount of points which looked and felt like the real deal -- i.e, genuine ancient California arrowheads. I also bought a soapstone double ended pipe. Very unusual design and I think very old. It also had a paper "glue on" label of a style dating back to pre-World War II. The label has writing on it in black fountain pen ink that I cannot read due to it being faded and blurry. I also got a nice chert "corner tang" knife which may or may not be genuine.



Caveat emptor! Purchasing arrowheads is

risky since there are many skillful flint knappers and some try to “artificially age” their creations to make them look and feel genuine. Time will tell.

The next day, I decided to drive north along the Pacific coast to where San Simeon Creek empties into the ocean. Recent winter storms had exposed lots of gravel and stones on the beach, so I had plenty of material to search. I was specifically looking for brecciated jasper and agate. I spent four hours slowly walking over the extensive gravel beds and found another flat rate box of rocks --- now labelled specimens. I stopped at the Post Office in Cayugos and picked up a couple of empty medium flat rate boxes which I packed, but did not seal, that evening.

On our last full day in San Luis Obispo, I visited Wes during the morning in Nipomo and he checked out my “deedeite” with his UV light --- every piece fluoresced strongly. Wes also had a spectacular “deedeite” sphere that was beautiful both in daylight and in UV. I bought it. Then I went to the local Post Office and mailed the flat rate boxes back to Maryland. One was 28 pounds and the other was 19 pounds!

After lunch, I visited another friend (Ralph Bishop) who lived a few miles south in Santa Maria. Ralph, Wes and I have rockhounded together for 20 years, so it was great to see him again. Ralph said it was my lucky day because I was just in time to help him sort through dozens of cigar boxes of various agate slabs. Since he had not seen the contents of these boxes in 40 years or more, it was fun for him as well. His plan was to give me specimens from every box. Wow! Very generous. He said he would sell the rest after we went through them. So for the next three

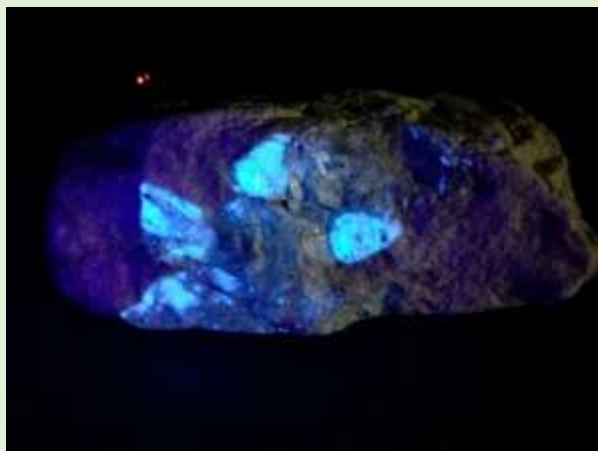
hours, he opened each box, picked out a slab, I wrote down its name and location and put the label and specimen each in a separate zip lock sandwich bag. And, of course, since each rock had a story with it, we had a super enjoyable afternoon. By the end, Ralph had given me a huge flat of slabs including many from now closed locations. Then we decided to check out the latest additions to his fabulous rock and fossil collection. All in all it was a fine day.

Our trip back to Maryland was not quite as good. In fact, it took us three days --- one to drive back to Burbank and two more to fly to Maryland --- mainly due to high winds, heavy rains and mudslides from a series of Pacific storms. Our Saturday flight was postponed, rescheduled, then finally cancelled. We were re-routed the next day through Dallas and finally reached BWI during the third quarter of the Super Bowl – the score was 3 to 3. After taking the hotel shuttle back to our parked car, we loaded all our bags, started the car and tuned the radio to the game. We listened to the exciting fourth quarter on the radio during our drive home. Whew! What a trip!!



## Member's Finds

I found this specimen of marble and some other minerals during one of my recent glowhounding excursions back in December in the northeast Baltimore area. Top photo is specimen in visible light; bottom photo is same specimen under shortwave ultraviolet (254nm) light. I have not yet made an attempt to identify the florescent mineral, but plan to do so in the near future.



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.

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**Official Field Trip of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club to Chestnut Ridge,  
Bath, County, VA for Quartz Crystals (loose and clusters)**

Maximum of 30 people. (quartz crystals are plentiful – everyone will find them). Trip Leader = Dave Lines

**Date:** Sat, March 30, 2019

**Meeting Time/Location:** 8:00 a.m. at Burger King on South Side of U.S Rt 250 (west) (physical address is “1034 Richmond Rd., Staunton, VA 24401”)

**Food/Drinks:** Individual responsibility --- recommend bring lunch, snacks, bottled water

**Topography:** *Very steep climb* to site over loose rocks/leaves/logs up a mountain for about a mile. Crystals in 2 locations --- ½ way and near top (2,700’ elevation). Travel by foot only. Trip leader will mark a trail (pretty much straight up) with surveyor’s tape so you can climb at your own pace.

**Tools:** Rock hammer, 4 pound hammer, safety glasses (for eye protection), garden scratcher, 5 gallon bucket/backpack (for your rocks), old newspaper to wrap/protect your specimens. Optional: fold-up Army shovel & small screen to sift dirt.

**Clothing:** light winter clothing, brown cotton gloves, ball cap, sturdy footwear (**good hiking boots with ankle support and deep tread**). Recommend coveralls or old clothes while collecting so you can change back into clean clothes before your ride home. It can be chilly, so cheap cotton gloves with tips of index finger and thumb cut off (to pick up xls) are very helpful. A cheap plastic roll-up poncho is always good insurance.

**Special remarks:** (1).No restroom facilities; (2). Per current National Park regulations plus specific written guidance from regional headquarters, our club has permission to collect specimens from this specific location for our “own use” only --- no commercial digging is allowed. Handtools are only tools allowed. We must cover all our holes before leaving. This is a great location which was closed to collecting for 5 years until we garnered this special permission --- please make every effort to keep this site open by following their rules. Thanks.

**SAFETY NOTE:** -- this is a fairly difficult trip. You must be in good physical condition --- i.e., able to hike 2+ miles with your equipment (and return with specimens). \*\*\* If you have serious physical ailments, don’t go. **Note to “first timers”** – yes, this is a long trip and a physically challenging climb; yes, kids can go; yes, you can find some crystals along the way to the top.

**Approx Timeline:** 8 am, meet at Burger King and caravan to Chestnut Ridge; 9 am – Arrive at parking area at foot of mountain; 9-11 am, Climb mountain; 11 am to 3 or 4 pm, Find Crystals; 4-5 pm, Descend mountain; 5-10 pm, Drive home

**Directions:** Use a Virginia state map --- from Southern MD, I-95 to I-295 (W) to I-64 (W) to I-81 (N) to Exit 222. Take U.S. 250 west approx 1 mile. Meet at Burger King on left (1034 Richmond Rd., Staunton, VA).

**Fatigue/Rest:** You might consider staying overnight at a motel in Staunton.

**Weather:** \*\* Snow cover / predicted bad weather such as snow, rain and/or all-day below freezing temperatures could cause this trip to be cancelled.

**Trip Sign-up:** **SMRMC Members:** (include your name and **CELL PHONE number**) sign-up at club meetings or by email to [dave.lines@earthlink.net](mailto:dave.lines@earthlink.net) by 3-26-19.

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**THIS IS OUR 4th YEAR AT THE  
WILLOW GROVE NATURE CENTER  
AT CROMWELL VALLEY PARK**

The Willow Grove Nature Center is located at the Willow Grove Farm entrance to Cromwell Valley Park, 2175 Cromwell Bridge Road, Parkville, MD 21234.

Mark your calendars for 2019 - Primitive Technology Weekend will be held Saturday, May 4th at 10 AM to 4 PM, & Sunday, May 5th at 10 AM to 1 PM. Campers are able to arrive on Friday, May 3rd to set-up.

**Questions?**

**F. Kirk Dreier** - Senior Naturalist Cromwell Valley Park

**Phone:** 410.887.2503 / Fax 410-823-5857

**Email:** kdreier@baltimorecountymd.gov

**Website:** www.cromwellvalleypark.org,

**Beltway, I-695 to Exit 29, Cromwell Bridge Rd.**

At the traffic light at the end of the exit ramp, turn **LEFT** (East) onto **Cromwell Bridge Rd.**

Continue on **Cromwell Bridge Rd** past Loch Raven High School.

The 1st entrance to the park is Sherwood Farm. **DO NOT TURN INTO the SHERWOOD FARM entrance!**

Go ½ mile past the Sherwood Farm entrance to the **2nd entrance, WILLOW GROVE FARM.**

Turn **LEFT** into the driveway and continue across the bridge.

**Directions for parking, camp sites and work sites will be posted!**



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.





46<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Atlantic Micromounters' Conference

Holiday Inn Express, Alexandria, VA

April 5-6, 2019

[dcmicrominerals.org](http://dcmicrominerals.org)



### The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc. invite you to attend our annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on April 5 – 6, 2019 at the Holiday Inn, Alexandria. 6055 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303 Phone (571) 257-9555



#### Author Extraordinaire, Dr. Robert J. Lauf

Speaker, Robert J. Lauf holds a Ph.D. in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Illinois. His scientific career included over twenty years at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he conducted research on topics ranging from nuclear fuel, coal by-products, materials synthesis, microwave processing, sensors, optical materials, and biomineralization. He has been granted fifty U.S. Patents for his inventions, many of which have become successful industrial products. He is now a Registered Patent Agent and technology consultant. He has published numerous books on mineralogy. His topics include: 1. Electron Microscopy: The Final Frontier of Magnification 2. Mineralogy of Uranium and Thorium 3. Orthosilicates.

Dr. Lauf will present his first program 7pm on Friday evening. Conference attendees are also encouraged to share their mineral collecting stories.

Saturday evening Dr. Michael Pabst will present Rare Earth Minerals.

Special recognition, MNCA legacy member Erich Grundel

We will have a silent auction as well as our annual micromount auction on Saturday. There will be plenty of micro giveaways and dealers. Also, remember if you have a microscope, bring it.

Saturday lunch is included, consisting of deli sandwiches, side dishes, beverages, and dessert. Dinner will be on your own. Cost for 2-day conference \$30.

Friday 6 – 9:30pm Saturday 8:30am – 9pm

**46<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Micromounters' Conference April 5-6, 2019**

Registration [dcmicrominerals.org](http://dcmicrominerals.org)

Make checks payable to: **Atlantic Micromounters Conference**

Registrants may pick up their packets and name tags on Friday evening.

Return registration to: Kathy Hrechka  
7201 Ludwood Court  
Alexandria, VA 22306

Reserve your hotel room before March 22 to receive the \$135. conference rate.  
Call Holiday Inn, Alexandria, VA (571) 257-9555

----- cut here

Please print all information and return this portion to Kathy, along with your payment. 2019

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-registration \$30. Number \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration at the door will be \$35. Check the portions of the conference you will be attending.

Friday Reception 6 – 9:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Conference 8:30am 9pm \_\_\_\_\_



**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:**