

Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



Rock Talk

November/December, 2019



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Sunday, December 15th,
2019**

3 to 6 p.m.

At Dave and Ann Lines' Home

7970 Bel Alton Newtown Road, La Plata, MD 20646

This is a Potluck – please bring a dish to share. *Ann and Dave will provide drinks (sodas, water, etc.), plates and silverware.*

To participate in the gift exchange, please bring a rock related gift (under \$20)

Please R.S.V.P. by December 10th to
dave.lines@earthlink.net or call (240) 427-7062.

In this issue:	
November Minutes	2
Items Wanted/For Sale	3
Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News	3
A Weekday Field Trip Yields New Experiences plus Calcite Crystals, Purple Fluorite, Honey Colored Flowstone and Black Onyx	4
Member's Finds	6

NOVEMBER MINUTES

Submitted by Cheryl Reese

DATE: Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, November, 19, 2019 at 7:10 by Joe

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS:

no visitors or new members

MEMBERSHIP: There are now 68 paid up-to-date members.

NEWSLETTER: There will be a combined Nov/Dec newsletter.

TREASURER: our EFMLS dues/insurance are paid!!!

FIELD TRIPS: There had been a wall collapse and safety issues at the H K Penn Quarry so there were strict rules for not stepping over berms. Ralph found a large and heavy piece of magnetite.

Future collecting trips will not be planned till the weather gets better, maybe March. There will however be short notice fossil trips announce by Dave when the winds and tides are in our favor. He recently announced one and he was the only one to go, finding a lot of turitella, teeth, beach glass etc.

November 30th: Field trip to Odessa Delaware for petrified wood. Ralph is leading this trip.

PROGRAMS: Polly passed around sign up sheet for 2020 programs and refreshments. There was also a list of possible topics for meetings if someone needed an idea for a program.

WEBMASTER: Everything is up to date.

OLD BUSINESS: New slate of officers have been elected for the coming year. Every officer from 2019 has been reelected for 2020.

President: Sondra Fielder

Program Vice President: Carole Rauchison

Membership Vice President: Joe Davis

Secretary: Cheryl Reese

Field trip chairman: Dave Lines

Treasurer: Dave Lines

Editor: Timothy Foard

Webmaster: Bob Davidson

December 15th, from 3-6 pm Christmas party at Dave and Anne Lines farmhouse. Address is 7970 Bel Alton Newtown Rd, La Plata, MD

Bring a dish to share and a rock related gift under \$20

NEW BUSINESS: JMU's new rock and mineral museum at Celebration Park in Harrisonburg, VA. will be having a grand opening on April 7th 2020. Our club along with 6 other local clubs will be invited to attend by Lance Kearns. There will be 3 main exhibits. JMU's Museum collection, Dr Mitchell's collection and Peter Via's donation of rocks and minerals worth approx 20 million. According to Dave just 3 specimens in that collection are worth 1 million alone.

ADJOURNED: 7:25 followed by door prizes donated by Dave , refreshments and a program by Joe Davis on Flintridge Ohio.

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 @ hleague@comcast.net

Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News

One-off priceless 'gem-inside-a-gem' rattling diamond is unearthed in Siberia By WILL STEWART IN MOSCOW FOR MAILONLINE

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7540555/One-priceless-gem-inside-gem-rattling-diamond-unearthed-Siberia.html>

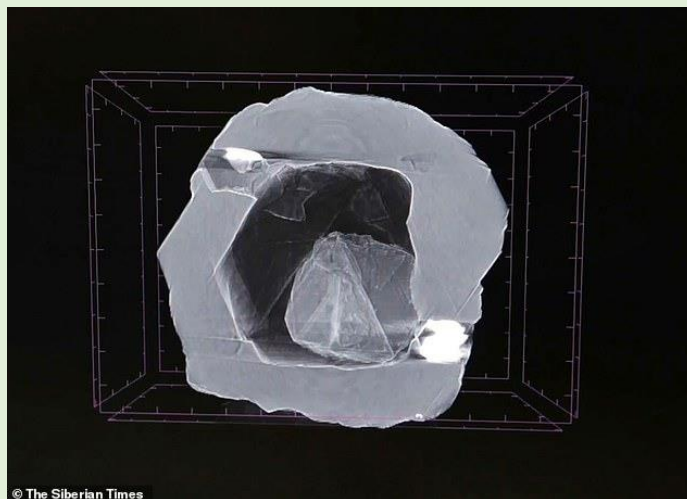
- **The 800million-year-old jewel is said to be priceless and the only such discovery**
- **So-called 'Matryoshka' diamond is named as it resembles Russian nesting dolls**

- **The larger gem is just .62 carats and it has dimensions of 4.8 x 4.9 x 2.8 mm**
- **Inside, the tiny nested diamond in its own sealed air space weighs .02 carats**

A unique 'gem inside a gem' diamond has been unearthed in Siberia.

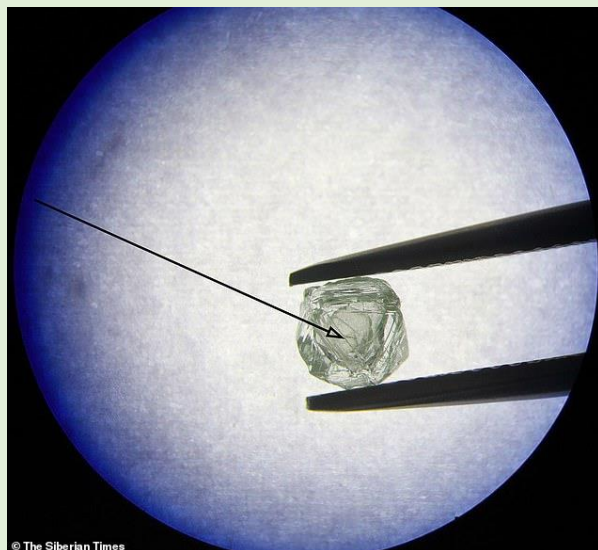
The 800 million-year-old two-in-one jewel is said to be priceless and the only such discovery in the world.

The so-called 'Matryoshka' diamond is named because it resembles traditional Russian nesting dolls, one inside the other.



© The Siberian Times

The 800 million-year-old two-in-one jewel (pictured) is said to be priceless and the only such discovery in the world



© The Siberian Times
The so-called 'Matryoshka' diamond is named because it resembles traditional Russian nesting dolls, one inside the other (shown)

The larger gem is just .62 carats with dimensions of 4.8 x 4.9 x 2.8 mm.

Inside, the tiny nested diamond in its own sealed air space has an estimated weight of .02 carats and dimensions of 1.9x2.1x0.6 mm.

The smaller diamond rattles inside the larger jewel.

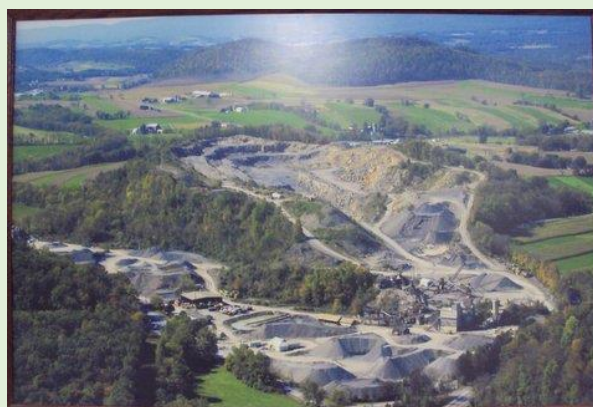


© The Siberian Times
The find - visible on X-ray - was announced by Russian diamond giant Alrosa and was made at the Nyurba diamond mine in the Sakha Republic, also known as Yakutia

The find - visible on X-ray - was announced by Russian diamond giant Alrosa and was made at the Nyurba diamond mine in the Sakha Republic, also known as Yakutia. Alrosa's Oleg Kovalchuk said: 'This is really a unique creation of nature...usually, some minerals are replaced by others without cavity formation.' He said 'no such diamonds' have been found previously, reported The Siberian Times. Alrosa plans to send the Matryoshka diamond to the Gemological Institute of America for further analysis.

A Weekday Field Trip Yields New Experiences plus Calcite Crystals, Purple Fluorite, Honey Colored Flowstone and Black Onyx

Article and photos by Dave Lines



Wow! What a day we had! How about getting up early enough to avoid morning rush hour traffic around Washington, Baltimore and Harrisburg? And on the Friday before a 3 day holiday weekend!?! Rich left Lexington Park, Maryland at 2:45 am in order to meet me in La Plata at 3:45 am. We poured coffee into our bodies and kept going. The trip up to Pennsylvania was really strange --- like being the only vehicle except for 18 wheelers on the

highway at times. Imagine the Baltimore beltway with just a few scattered vehicles on it. Almost surreal. North of Harrisburg, we stopped for some breakfast --- and more coffee. And all that was well before 7:00 am. Despite heavy fog the last 50 miles, we arrived at the National Limestone quarry in Middleburg, PA over an hour early.

Joe and Paula were already there. So was Cory. And Adrienne showed up a few minutes later. Rich and I went into the office and talked with Eric (the quarry owner) for a few minutes. Turns out that we were going to be the very last group of the season because the group planned for the next day (Saturday) called and cancelled. There was a lot of activity including several quarry personnel cleaning up the truck scales with shovels and water hoses --- preparations for the winter shutdown.

Everyone else arrived closer to the published meeting time of 8:45 am. This was a joint trip hosted by the Montgomery County club and attended by people from several local clubs including ours. We had ten (10) members ---- Tina and Harry, Joe and Paula, Wendy and Rick, Cory, Adrienne, Rich and Dave. At the Safety Brief, the quarry owner Eric welcomed us and gave us his Christian testimony. One of the attendees presented Eric with a gift from his young daughter (who was in school since it was a Friday and thus a school day). Eric accepted the gift --- a small handmade ceramic cross to be worn around the neck --- with a big grin and immediately put it on. He was genuinely pleased. Eric pointed out that all quarry work had ceased for the year, reminded us to be safe and he wished us good

success

collecting.



We then returned to our vehicles and followed Sam Linton (the overall trip leader) into the quarry. The quarry was neat and tidy with berms all around the highwalls. After we parked near the center of the quarry, I spent about 15 or 20 minutes just walking around the perimeter looking for a concentration of calcite crystals. I finally found just such an area where limestone had been stockpiled on the lowest level about 200 yards north (?) of where we had parked. I gathered a few clusters of crystals into a pile, put my bright safety vest on top and hurried back to gather up the folks from our club. Within 10 minutes, we had 7 or 8 of us busily collecting excellent calcite crystal specimens from all over that large stockpile of rocks.



The calcite crystals were in cavities inside the limestone. The cavities seemed to be lined up in layers which were several inches thick. If we saw a rock with some crystals along one end, we split open the rock with a chisel and, more often than not, we found many more crystals inside. For the most part, these crystals were very clean and sparkly --- especially so in the bright fall sunshine. Several of us found purple fluorite embedded in seams of massive white calcite in the same area. Rich was particularly successful and found a full flat of fluorite. In one particular rock I had split open, I found a one (1) inch thick seam of a solid black material that looked like flint. I kept some because I was unsure what it was. Later, I found out from Sam that it was “black onyx” --- a first for me.

We collected in Middleburg for about 2 hours and then some of the folks wanted to move to the other National Limestone quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills. I told people that it was not a good idea to move because the specimens were easier to find and more plentiful at Middleburg. Nevertheless, about half of the overall group left and went to Mount Pleasant Mills. A remnant of about 8 of us stayed at Middleburg and continued collecting until 12:45 pm since we had to be out of the quarry by 1 pm. Near the end of our visit, we gathered to compare notes and Cory showed us a specimen of “flowstone” which was honey colored travertine (stalagmites and stalagmites) from the inside of an ancient cave which had been excavated during quarry operations. I remembered where we had collected this same material several years ago, so Rich and I went to this area of the quarry

and collected several chunks of flowstone just before we left the quarry.

Our drive back to Southern Maryland was awful. It took us over 5 hours with lots of slow stop-and-go traffic and several traffic accidents along the entire route --- especially from Harrisburg to Waldorf. All in all, we had a good trip --- although it had been a very long day and we were super tired when we got home.

Member’s Finds

Some of the mineral specimens collected by Jennifer Weeks during her first field trip to Vulcan Manassas Quarry, Manassas, Virginia. Some of the minerals she collected include calcite, stellerite, and prehnite.



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.

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 OFFICERS

President

Sondra Fielder

Sondra611@verizon.net

Program Vice President

Carole Raucheson

caroleal@verizon.net

Membership Vice President

Joe Davis

J1964d@netzero.net

Secretary

Cheryl Reese

cheryl_59@comcast.net

Field Trip Chairman

David Lines

Dave.lines@earthlink.net

Treasurer

David Lines

Dave.lines@earthlink.net

Editor

Timothy Foard

bmorebugman@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Bob Davison

Bob.Davison2@yahoo.com