

Beaver Creek Quarry
By Ralph Gamba
Photos by Joe Davis

On May 11, 2016 four members of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club, Mary C., Tim F., Joe D. and Ralph G. (Figure 1) ventured to the Beaver Creek Quarry near Hagerstown, MD. We were invited by the Montgomery County Club. The weather was a misty rain on a cool spring day.



Figure 1. Ralph, Mary, Tim and Joe at the Beaver Creek Quarry

Little is known about this site. The Beaver Creek quarry (Figures 2 and 3) is part of the Bluegrass Materials Company. Mindat listed the quarry under the Beaver Creek Pit (H B Mellott Estate), but does not list any minerals. By December 1007, LaFarge Mid Atlantic owned the quarry and it became part of the Bluegrass Materials Company when LaFarge sold them their Maryland Quarry properties in 2014.

This was a prospecting trip to see what can be found. Beaver Creek Quarry produces crushed limestone. One rumor suggested that sulfide minerals were found.

Mary and Ralph arrived at 8:30. Collectors from other clubs, including the Delaware Club had already arrived and waited at the office. We met our host, Dave, who took us to the collecting spot. He gave a brief safety talk, told us to avoid the high walls, and said “go at it.” Dave did not know what we might find. Dave returned to the office to await more arrivals. Tim and Joe soon joined the collecting.



Figure 2. Beaver Creek Quarry Collecting Site.



Figure 3. Beaver Creek Quarry Pond

Ralph found a small sample that appeared to contain epidote. Pieces of druzy calcite on the host limestone/dolostone were abundant, but no large crystals. Mary and Ralph found clusters of small crystals of calcite. Joe found a plate of calcite crystals (Figure 4). The calcite appeared to fluoresce under both long and shortwave UV.



Figure 4. Calcite Crystals

Ralph broke apart a boulder containing vugs. The inside of the vugs were coated with a light to dark brown coating resembling goethite.

A collector from the Delaware club found a dolomite specimen. Another found dendrites.

Tim found calcite, and small amount of a manganese minerals possibly psilomelane.

It soon was 11:30 and Dave requested that we finish so we could leave by noontime. We thanked Dave for letting us collect and headed home with our specimens.