



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

FEBRUARY 2021

NATURE CENTER REMAINS CLOSED TO GROUP MEETINGS

Message from Stephanie Jacob of the Clearwater Nature Center...

"Here at Clearwater Nature Center we continue in a holding pattern waiting for the County Executive to give us permission to reopen. With the increase in COVID cases we can expect that there will be a delay until the daily cases goes back down. We will not be renewing memberships until the building is reopened and we have permission for meetings to gather here again. Park and Planning just sent out a notice this morning (Dec 18) that Rental Cancellations will continue through February 2021."

The Clearwater Nature Center will keep their ongoing effort ensuring best practices ensuring the lowest chances of spreading COVID-19 between the animals and humans.

So the SMRMC meeting scheduled for February 2020 /2021 is cancelled. (And not due to "Lack of Interest!!")

The Lapidary workshop is also closed until further notice - both because of the COVID-19 shutdown

MINUTES

No minutes for April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December 2020 and January 2021 meetings due to COVID-19 closure of the Clearwater Nature Center. Also due to COVID-19 conditions, the February Meeting will not be done UNLESS we have a meeting via a "ZOOM-like" on line meeting is held. Unfortunately "No News does not mean "Good News" in this situation.

From the CLUB TREASURER

Update on our club dues/EFMLS Insurance and dues: The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) has waived all EFMLS dues for this year. However, the Liability Insurance (for Official Field Trips) will still be assessed to each club for 2021. Details are being worked out by the EFMLS Treasurer and the EFMLS Officers. Also, each year, every EFMLS Club must update the EFMLS with a detailed list of Club info including officers, membership data and related data such as Website, Editor, etc.. We are awaiting the new forms for 2021 from EFMLS. Stephanie at the Clearwater Nature Center also indicated that the Nature Center is minimally staffed and not allowing meetings or outside groups. They will not collect club dues until this Covid thing is over."

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2020 / 2021 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
FEBRUARY	MEETING CANCELED.	MEETING CANCELED
MARCH	DEFINATE MAYBE (Or Not)???	Rules may change
APRIL	DEFINATE MAYBE (Or Not)???	Rules may change
MAY	DEFINATE MAYBE (Or Not)???	Rules may change

PROGRAMS

The only programs presented in 2020 were in January and February. Greta led us in a rousing game called Box of Rocks, and Rich reinforced our well-being with Quarry Safety. Thank you Greta and Rich.

Everything else was cancelled. We hope to reschedule these programs when the Nature Center opens again. Some of these previously-scheduled topics are:

- The Virginia Mineral Project - Tom Hale
- The Fossil Record - Dale Greenwalt
- Raw Specimen to Display Specimen - Tim Smith
- Pearls - Denise Wilson

Programs, like field trips, serve an essential part of our club. They provide an opportunity for members to share and learn from others the many facets (pun intended) of rocks, fossils, geology, and minerals.

Think about how you can contribute to a future meeting. We love to learn. Hope to see you all soon. Carole

From the Crowded and Messy Desk of the Editor:

On the Virtual Meeting Front, I (in a weak moment) volunteered to attend the Eastern Federation Editors Group ZOOM

meeting. Approximately twenty (20) editors across the region have connected for the three (3) meetings so far. Items discussed have been the transmission of the Newsletters, how topics are generated and collected, computer programs used for news letter generation, historical storage and multiple other minor topics. This Group will meet initially monthly for a few months then spread the meetings out over the remainder of the year. Agendas will be generated by the attendees prior to the meeting. It has been a good discussion group and promises to continue to be an outstanding way of sharing information.

We all want to see each other and share our experiences once again. Stay in touch via mail, phone and email.

WILDACRES 2021

WILDACRES UPDATE

Wildacres facility is still in the process of figuring out how to hold sessions given the North Carolina COVID-19 restrictions. To date, Wildacres has not been cancelled and we are waiting the go-ahead signal from them to begin registration. As soon as we have any more information, you will be notified immediately. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Weinberger, Chairman (cscrytals2@gmail.com); Pam Bryant, Director (pjbryant6@juno.com) or Suzie Milligan, Registrar (smilligan@stny.it).

2022 Primitive Technology Weekend

The "**2022 Primitive Technology Weekend**" has been tentatively scheduled for April 30 (10 am to 4 pm) and May 1 (10 am to 1 pm), 2022 on the grounds of the Willow Grove Nature Center in Cromwell Valley Park.

The "Primitive Technology Weekend" previously scheduled for **May 2020 has been cancelled.**

Hope Diamond Featured on the Today Show!

On December 28, 2020, NBC's TODAY show featured a wonderful story about the Hope Diamond. The feature begins with the story about how the diamond got to the Natural History Museum from New York and then cuts to an interview with Dr. Jeff Post, Curator, about the world's most famous gem. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtQyhVAIo7M>

Polly Zimmerman is doing well -

Polly had to have a stint to assist in opening one of her arteries. I am told she is doing well and still keeping up with her grandchildren.

KUDOs to Bob Davidson!!

Bob has been helping Lorna Larson this month with the downsizing of her collection through a "First Come" Sales on SMRMC.ORG. This has been received very well by the SMRMC and Lapidary Club members. Thank you Bob!!

Calendar of Events

Many events have been postponed/cancelled and/or rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please check with the sponsoring club to make sure the event has not been cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic before attending any event.

March 27-28 – Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club 51st Annual Show. March 27 9:00-5:00, March 28 10:00-4:00. Wysox Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall, 111 Lake Street, Wysox, PA. Exhibits, door prizes and dealers selling minerals, fossils, lapidary and jewelry. Admission adult \$3, students \$1, under 8 free. Contact Bob 570-928-9238; website – www.chehannarocks.com.

May 28-30, —SALEM, VIRGINIA: Annual show; American Gem, Mineral And Jewelry Shows LLC; Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$7, children age 11-17 \$2, free admission for children 10 and under; Featuring vendors with gems, minerals, jewelry, beads, fossils, and meteorites; contact Alan Koch; Email: agmjs3@gmail.com

June 5-6 – Monroe, NY – Orange County Mineral Society's Annual Mineral, Gem Jewelry and Fossil Show, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM outdoor event, rain, or shine. Museum Village, 1010 Route 17M, Monroe, New York 10950.

July 9-11 -- Mark your calendars for the 2021 EFMLS Annual Meeting Syracuse, New York. Sponsored by the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, New York. As the date

draws nearer, more information will be forthcoming.

October 30, 2021 ULTRAVIOLATION SHOW

Where: First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd, Fairless Hills, PA

When: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

What: ULTRAVIOLATION is the ULTIMATE annual show for the fluorescent mineral enthusiast, whether a novice or serious collector. The show features many of the world's premier fluorescent mineral COLLECTORS AND DEALERS who strive each year to bring the biggest, brightest and best fluorescent minerals to satisfy the insatiable cravings of the fluorescent collector. ULTRAVIOLATION highlights fluorescent minerals exclusively and is the next best thing to night collecting. Free admission and a fluorescent mineral specimen for each junior mineralogist 12 years and younger when accompanied by an adult.

Admission: \$2.00 Donation, Children 12 & Under Free

Dealers: 8' TABLE \$30 – ½ TABLE \$15
ADVANCED REGISTRATION FOR DEALERS IS ADVISED

SEND YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:

Lee McIlvaine, 8510 Elliston Dr. Wyndmoor, PA 19038 Or Paypal electronic payment to leemcilvaine@yahoo.com

For information call Lee McIlvaine at 215-713-8020 or email uvgeologist@yahoo.com

Jennie Frances Smith**JULY 14, 1922 – DECEMBER 18, 2020**

Photo by "Dignity Memorial," Houston, TX
 Jennie R. Smith passed away peacefully December 18, 2020 surrounded by family. A celebration of her life will take place in the Spring in Dixmont, Maine. Born 7/14/22 in Clinton ME to Ralph and Fannie Runnels, one of five children. Jennie always wanted to be a teacher. Beginning with her childhood commitment to read every book in her small hometown library, Jennie was an avid reader consuming thousands of books in her lifetime. She attended Farmington State Teachers College where she earned her teaching degree. Jennie enjoyed teaching 3rd and 4th grades in Maine for several years. She married Paul E. Smith, living in Maine, South Dakota, 20 years in Park Forest, IL and 30 years in Fairfax, VA. They were married for 57 years and had two children, Woodrow and Paula. Jennie continued using her teaching and creative gifts through volunteering in children's community theater, leading a junior stamp club, as a 4-H leader, starting an Communications and involvement are our keys to success. February 2021 Page 7 Earth Science Club, teaching silversmithing, helping ESL students and much more. Jennie and Paul were enthusiastic rock, mineral and fossil collectors belonging to and serving in leadership in several mineralogical societies on the east coast. With her substantial writing

skills and love of minerals, Jennie wrote A Guide to Understanding Crystallography to help the layperson understand the complex study of crystals. She loved all her family, teaching others at every opportunity, new adventures, traveling, the Washington Redskins, NASCAR, and peanut M & M's. Jennie was a gracious, caring, and generous lady who was known for making everyone she spoke with respected, listened to and encouraged. After her husband Paul's death, Jennie moved to Dallas, TX to be near her daughter, son-in-law and Texas grandchildren and lived there for the last 15 years in an active Senior community until she moved to Hurst, TX this past fall to live with her daughter and family. She died peacefully at home December 18, 2020 surrounded by the love of family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul.

From Jennie's official obituary For those who did not know her, Jennie was a mentor to many collectors and micromounters and was always there for you. Jennie and her husband, Paul, were fixtures in the hobby. Many a rockhound owe their enthusiasm and being involved in the hobby, in clubs and the Federation to Jennie. She was one of a kind, often with a smile on her face and shall be remembered by all those she came in contact with as that wonderful, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, encouraging person who was always willing to teach and help you in any way she could. She will be fondly remembered by many of us rockhounds. We have lost a real icon. May she rest in peace. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area (MNCA) 270 Rachel Drive, Penn Laird, VA 22846, or North Texas SNAP (Special Needs Assistance Partners) P.O.Box 3294 Grapevine TX 76099.

A Wintery Blowout Tide Trip and a New Friend by Dave Lines

Let's face it --- some days are just more fun than others. And yesterday was proof of that. For me it was a chance to get out and away from the farm and do some fossil hunting. The weather forecast for several days had been predicting strong North West winds gusting to 35 knots. That, and the timing of low tide --- 12:30 pm --- made the beach at Purse State Park a perfect choice. The only kicker in this plan was the temperature --- *cold* --- which, with the high NW winds, would drop wind chills into the teens -- and since the previous night time low was around 20 degrees, there was a distinct possibility that the beach would be frozen solid. Nevertheless, I chanced it and went anyway. Glad I did.

As I neared the intersection and last turn on the road to Purse, I saw a white SUV with 2 kayaks strapped on top pass by. I sort of followed that SUV for the last couple of miles and wondered whether they were also heading to Purse. I thought it mighty cold and too windy to be kayaking. When I turned left onto the road, the SUV was about ¼ mile ahead. When it neared the small Purse parking area, it slowed and turned in. When I arrived, three vehicles were already parked and it was only about 10:45 am. There would be some competition today. Since no one emerged from the white SUV, and since I was already dressed like an Eskimo, I just grabbed my bucket and stick and headed down the path to the beach. Along the way, I encountered a young fellow heading back to the parking area. He looked *very cold* --- no hat, a light jacket and his nose and ears were bright red. He was not interested in standing around to talk --- he wanted warmth. In

reply to my question, he said there was some ice on the beach near the edge of the water. And away he scurried.

When I reached the last part of the trail, the wind was really howling and I could see the river was covered with white caps. Reaching the beach, it was indeed frozen solid and there was a line of slush ice about a foot thick and 6 feet wide that went as far as I could see. I was thinking --- "This is CRAZY!" The good news is that the tide was already about a foot below normal and the river water temperature was above freezing and the air temp was predicted to rise to a balmy 36 degrees --- enough to allow some thawing. There was a couple on the beach -- the guy was on the bank of the first little stream sifting the sand and gravel for shark's teeth. He said I should join him. No thanks -- I don't want to get wet in these conditions. A little ways further on, his wife was searching with a metal detector --- first time I ever seen that at Purse. She said she had not had much luck.

I continued on --- thinking that the people in the SUV might be coming soon and that I had better get going. Using a small rock pick to free them from the frozen beach sand, I picked up a few pieces of "Potomac River Stone" (the Maryland State gem), but generally just kept walking. About a half mile down the beach, I checked my back trail and there was a new guy coming --- dressed in a bright yellow --- easy to see him. He had already passed the couple who were just leaving and he was heading my way. I kept walking. The second stream was easy to cross --- not like the last time when I had to turn back because the stream had been 2 feet deep with a dangerously strong outgoing current. I rounded the first big point and the guy was a bit closer and still coming.

I made my way under and over several trees that had fallen onto the beach and continued on – not finding much except small pieces of Potomac River Stone which seemed a bit more plentiful. About ¼ mile past the point, I looked back and the guy was looking for stuff on the flat there. He did not seem in much of a hurry, but he was closing. I found a few turrítella internal fossil molds and a small otodus shark tooth that was missing both side cusps. Not much. I kept pushing down the beach --- checking the unfrozen --- and ever widening ---area between the water's edge and the slush ice. I found more turrítellas, but no teeth. I eventually found an area where the turrítellas were more numerous. By noon, the air temp seemed to be getting a tiny bit warmer --- maybe it was the bright sunshine --- because the beach was beginning to thaw. I shifted my efforts to the area closer to the cliffs.



I had looked back several times and the guy was still coming --- climbing over and under and around the many downed trees. Finally when he was only about 30 yards away, I set my bucket down and went back to meet him. He returned my greeting with a smile and a wave --- always good signs. He was dressed very warmly in chest waders and sturdy winter outdoor clothing – probably waterproof. I commented that he was dressed like he knew what he was

doing and he introduced himself as “Paul” (and I missed his last name). I introduced myself and then we had a 15 minute conversation. He was taking the afternoon off to look for fossils --- mainly shark and crocodile teeth. He and his 14 year old son had originally become interested in finding fossils several years ago when visiting the Calvert Marine Museum where his son had found shark teeth in the “kids’ sandbox”. Much later, when they had collected many sharks teeth from locations all along the Chesapeake Bay, they decided to give back some teeth to the Museum to help replenish the “kids’ sandbox”. In response to their gesture, the museum’s Curator of Paleontology, Dr. Stephen Godfrey, talked with them and gave them a full behind the scenes tour of their collection. Wow! When I enquired about the kayaks on top of the SUV, Paul said they use the kayaks to access beaches that otherwise could not be reached by land. He emphasized that normally his son would be accompanying him on this fossil trip, but his kids were in school today. I asked how many times he had been to Purse --- 2 dozen times



Then I did a bit of “Rock Hound recruiting” by telling Paul about our Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club and about how we went on field trips to various rock, mineral and fossil locations both locally and on long distance trips. I

suggested that he look up our website and check out our past field trips. I also mentioned that I was the club's field trip coordinator. He sounded interested and said he would investigate further. We then split up and he headed on down the beach while I decided to sit down on a log and eat some lunch that I had brought along. He came by in a half hour or so and headed home, while I stayed and continued looking. Glad I did as I found more turritellas and several other beach combing prizes including a mallard drake duck decoy in almost new condition. I also rescued a nearly new bass fishing lure tangled up in some brush. And a nice flat round white quartz pebble and a piece of pretty drift wood for Ann. And 3 whiffle balls for our youngest grandson. By the time I headed back, my bucket was nearly full and quite heavy.



Later that evening at home, I was surprised to get an email from Paul. He and his wife and son had looked up the SMRMC website and were excited about some of the trips our club has taken. He specifically mentioned gold panning and collecting petrified wood. Now I have his full name and his email address. Hopefully they will join our club and participate in some future field trips and other club activities. You never know where a simple conversation will lead.

By the way, as I write this trip report, the water levels on the Potomac River have risen dramatically from those blowout conditions just two days ago (due to the snow storm/nor'easter) and are now a full 2 feet above normal!

Dinosaur Unearthed in Argentina Could Be Largest Land Animal Ever

The skeleton is still far from complete but paleontologists say what they've found suggests the dinosaur may be more than 120 feet long

By [Alex Fox](#)

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JANUARY 22, 2021 3:31PM

[HTTPS://WWW.SMITHSONIANMAG.COM/SMART-NEWS/DINOSAUR-UNEARTHED-ARGENTINA-COULD-BE-LARGEST-LAND-ANIMAL-EVER-180976813](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/dinosaur-unearthed-argentina-could-be-largest-land-animal-ever-180976813)

The fossilized bones of what may have been the largest animal ever to walk the Earth are slowly emerging from the ground in Argentina, reports Amy Woodyatt for [CNN](#).



A paleontologist excavating a 98 million-year-old fossil which may belong to the largest land animal ever. Researchers first started unearthing the creature's remains in 2012 at the Candeleros Formation in the Neuquen River Valley, Argentina.

Beginning in 2012, paleontologists set about excavating a hulking set of 24 vertebrae as well as elements of the pelvis and pectoral girdle from the Candeleros Formation in Argentina's Neuquén Province. At first, it wasn't clear to researchers what they'd found, only that it was enormous. Now, in a new paper published this month in the journal *Cretaceous Research*, paleontologists say the remains suggest a type of long-necked, plant-eating dinosaur called a titanosaur, potentially the largest ever unearthed.

They can't yet speculate as to whether the gigantic bones belong to a known species or something new entirely, but, per CNN, the team says that the specimen could be even bigger than a 122-foot, nearly 70-ton titanosaur called *Patagotitan*.

Researchers have dated the new specimen to around 98 million years ago, reports Harry Baker for *Live Science*.

"Given the measurements of the new skeleton, it looks likely that this is a contender for one of the largest, if not the largest, sauropods that have ever been found," Paul Barrett, a paleontologist at the Natural History Museum in London who was not involved in the study, tells *Live Science*. "This new skeleton provides yet another example of sauropods pushing at the extremes of what's possible with respect to maximum animal size on land."

To reach a conclusion regarding the behemoth's species and more accurately estimate its size, researchers will need to keep digging. David Bressan reports for *Forbes* that load bearing bones such as

the femur and humerus would go a long way towards facilitating such estimates.

"It is a huge dinosaur, but we expect to find much more of the skeleton in future field trips, so we'll have the possibility to address with confidence how really big it was," Alejandro Otero, a paleontologist with Argentina's Museo de La Plata and lead author of the paper, tells CNN via email.

As Bressan notes in *Forbes*, though dinosaurs like the titanosaurs reached lengths well more than 100 feet, they fail to mount a serious challenge for the title of the largest animal ever to have lived on our planet. That

accolade goes to a giant that is still with us today: the blue whale, which can reach lengths of more than 100 feet and, because its heft is supported by water, weigh up to 173 tons.

Alex Fox is a freelance science journalist based in Washington, D.C. He has written for *Science*, *Nature*, *Science News*, *the San Jose Mercury News*, and *Mongabay*. You can find him at [Alexfoxscience.com](https://www.alexfoxscience.com).

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Local Fossil Enthusiasts Discover New Fossils at Calvert Cliffs

Prehistoric Cobia Named for Local Amateur Paleontologists

<https://southernmarylandchronicle.com/2021/01/12/local-fossil-enthusiasts-discover-new-fossils-at-calvert-cliffs/>



SOLOMONS, MD – January 12, 2021 – On April 27, 2019, local fossil enthusiasts Stephen Groff and Marcus Jones found a partial skull of a fossil fish along Calvert Cliffs. Little did they know at

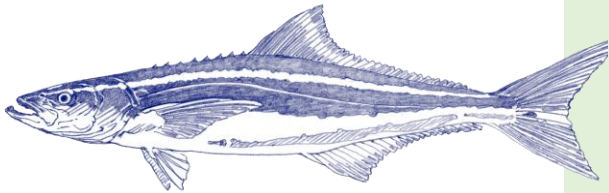
the time that it would turn out to be the find of a lifetime.



Using a microscope, needles, and fine brushes, Groff carefully removed the entombing sediments from around the 10 million-year-old bones to reveal a true treasure. This fossil-find consisted of the bony braincase of a cobia – the first ever found in the fossil record. The only known species of living cobia is a marine inhabitant that occurs nearly worldwide in a variety of tropical, subtropical, and warm temperate habitats and occasionally enter estuaries, feeding on crustaceans, cephalopods (squid

and their kin), and other fishes. The hand-sized fossilized partial skull was different enough from the living cobia that a new species was named in honor of Groff and Jones, and published recently in the Journal of Paleontology.

Calvert Marine Museum Curator of Paleontology Dr. Stephen Godfrey, along with fossil-fish expert Dr. Giorgio Carnevale of Torino, Italy, named the new species of cobia *Rachycentron stremphaencus*. When paleontologists describe a new fossil species, one of the perks is that they get to invent a new name for the new species – and they can name it just about anything they like! In this situation, it seemed most fitting to name it after the co-discoverers. So, the new species name “stremphaencus” is derived from a combination of the letters of “Stephen” and “Marcus” with some rearrangement of the letters to make it mellifluous.



A word of warning! Digging in the cliffs is dangerous and is prohibited without a permit on all state and federal lands. On private land, permission must be obtained from the owners before digging. If you see a skull, bone, or unusual fossil in the cliffs, please report it to the Calvert Marine Museum at 410-326-2042. The museum appreciates getting this information and, if

justified by the importance of the find, will make every effort to obtain the necessary permission and have trained personnel collect the specimen, giving full credit to the finder(s).

The clay and sandy sediments in which the fossil was found indicate that the prehistoric environment was a shallow marine one, perhaps even an estuary similar to the present-day Chesapeake Bay. (The Chesapeake Bay as we know it did not exist 10 million years ago.) A large number of predominantly marine species have been found in these deposits, with representatives from several groups of microscopic fossils and invertebrates, like snails and clams, as well as an array of vertebrate species, including a host of sharks and rays, bony fishes, turtles, crocodiles, sea-faring birds, seals, sea cows, dolphins, and baleen whales, and the very rare remains of large terrestrial mammals like extinct elephants and rhinos.

Based on the ecological requirements of the only living species of cobia, and a reconstruction of the environmental conditions that existed when the fossil cobia was alive 10 million years ago, it is reasonable to conclude that *Rachycentron stremphaencus* was a predatory fish that inhabited the subtropical to warm temperate Atlantic coast of North America during the Late Miocene, where it lived and hunted in shallow marine waters. Inspired by their recent contribution to the world of paleontology, Groff and Jones continue to hunt for fossils along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

Collection Management Article for Society Newsletters

Geology365 Geology365.com

By Pam Pollister, Philadelphia Mineralogical Society on behalf of the EFMLS

Author's note: The following information is based off a presentation made by Ryan Klockner and reviewing the website. This is not a personal endorsement of the site but rather sharing information about an online resource that could be helpful to mineral collectors and societies.

Have you heard about Geology365.com? It is a FREE resource for mineral collectors as well as for rock and mineral societies. Geology365 was the brainchild of Mark Klockner and his son, Ryan Klockner. As rockhounds, they knew the importance of documenting a collection and together created an outline for an online resource that all mineral collectors could use. In honor of his father who passed away in 2018, Ryan has fulfilled their vision by creating Geology365.com.

This article will focus on how you, a mineral collector, can use this free website. There are also many tools available in Geology365 to assist mineral societies in creating a website, managing membership and even fieldtrips. Those features will be the topic of a future article..

Collection Management

Geology365 allows you to easily create and maintain an electronic catalog of your rocks and minerals. After all, it is important for you – and your family - to know what is in your collection. There are

fields for everything you might want to track and if there are too many options, you can select which fields you'd like to use. For example, the online database has fields for you to enter location, date collected/obtained, estimated value and other relevant details about each piece. There is a limit of 365 specimens that may be included for free in your personal catalog. For \$5/month you can add up to 1,460 specimens (there are additional options, as well, for larger collections). Each specimen has a public/private setting. If "private" is selected, only you can view the item on the website.

Do you already have an electronic list of your collection and want to move it to Geology365? If so, you are in luck as there is an import feature that allows you to upload a csv or Excel file.

From a financial and practical standpoint, having your collection cataloged is a pre-requisite for insuring your minerals. This tool may also serve as a resource for you and your family if/when the collection must be moved forward.

Labels

Once you have minerals in the collection management system, Geology365 has a template to design custom labels. Once set up and saved, the custom format can be used for all your mineral labels. Capabilities remain in place if you later want to change the design of your label. As your collection grows you can print labels for just your new specimens.

Geology365 can also incorporate QR codes (Quick Response code) on the labels. When the QR code is scanned your

computer or smart phone will automatically open Geology365.com to that specimen's page where you can read the available information. Having a QR code on a label is a great way to assure that the mineral's provenance is not lost to future generations.

Conclusion

Geology365 was created by a father-son team who recognized the mineral collector's need to catalog and label their collection. By sharing this website, Geology365 is a free and easy to use online resource that any mineral collector may use. Perhaps this is the year you will document and custom-label your collection. Let Geology365.com help you attain that goal.

MOHS' SCALE

	Comparison Mineral	Mineral Test	Rosiwai's Grinding Hardness
1	Talc	Powered by finger nail	0.03
2	Gypsum	Scratched by finger nail	1.25
3	Calcite	Scratched by Copper coin	4.5
4	Fluorite	Easily scratched by pocket knife	5.0
5	Apatite	Just scratched by pocket knife	6.5
6	Orthoclase	Scratched by steel file	37
7	Quartz	Scratches glass window	120
8	Topaz	Easily scratches quartz	175
9	Corundum	Easily scratches topaz	1,000
10	Diamond	Cannot be scratched	140,000

Topics / Articles - Plea for.....

This newsletter belongs to the ENTIRE Club. Each member is HIGHLY encouraged to contribute and recommend topics, articles, photos, stories that are related to our hobby. This includes ideas for the WORDSEARCH "Theme". Once we are allowed to meet again, we will have stories and pictures from the meetings programs. But until then, I am welcoming any and ALL possible ideas for what we can share with the entire club!!



Maryland State Gemstone: Patuxent River Stone (2004)

Maryland designated the Patuxent River stone as its official state gem. Proponents have suggested that the Patuxent River stone is agatized dinosaur bone. Others, however, believe that it is neither agate or dinosaur bone and that it is common quartzite.



Maryland State Fossil: Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae (Wilson) (1994) replacing Ecphora quadricostata (1984)

In 1984, the Maryland State Assembly passed a resolution designating Ecphora quadricostata as the official state fossil. The Ecphora was a small snail that inhabited the Chesapeake Bay 12 to 5 million years ago. An Ecphora shell found in St. Mary's County about 1685 was one of the first North American fossils illustrated in European scientific works. It was first described in 1770 in the scientific publication *Historiae Conchyliorum* by Martin Lister. Ecphora gardnerae was originally thought to be the same species as Ecphora quadricostata. The two snails, however, were later declared to be separate species. Accordingly, in October 1994, the State Assembly designated Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae (Wilson) as the state's official fossil. This actually is the same fossil snail that was first designated by the Maryland General Assembly in 1984, but there has been a name change. The legislature's action in 1994 was in response to a name change by the scientific community. The previous name was Ecphora quadricostata. Changes in nomenclature are nothing new for Ecphora (or for most fossils, for that matter).



Maryland State Dinosaur: Astrodon johnstoni (1998)

Maryland designated Astrodon johnstoni as its official state dinosaur in 1998. Astrodon johnstoni lived during the early Cretaceous period, between 130 million and 95 million years ago. Astrodon means "star tooth" and derives from the fossils found in 1858 by Philip Tyson, then Maryland's State Agricultural Chemist. His discovery of two teeth in the Arundel Clay near Muirkirk in Prince George's County was one of the earliest dinosaur finds in this country and the first in Maryland. Tyson gave the teeth to a local doctor and dentist Christopher Johnston, who sliced a tooth into cross sections, discovering a star pattern. In his 1859 article for the *American Journal of Dental Science*, Dr. Johnston called the species Astrodon. Astrodon was a sauropod (lizard-foot) of the Saurischian order (lizard-hip). These large dinosaurs weighed up to 20 tons. They had small heads, long necks, and long tails. Strong, solid legs supported their rounded bodies. Adult Astrodon could be 50 to 60 feet long, and more than 30 feet tall. They were herbivorous, probably feeding on trees, ferns, and other plants.

FOUND IN MARYLAND

BY RICH SIMCSAK

E M D E T I N E D B Y L O M E
 T E A F F C G S L Y R E B N H
 I T W N L Y O Y Z O I S I T E
 H Q U A G T P E I L L L E A D
 T R T V S A T M N N A I G S K
 E Y C E A I N F C M E M R T E
 O P B S C U Z E R D T E U I N
 G S T L T T G U S L O S F L I
 A O A E R R O G A E D T L B T
 R C L A F T Y O Y U I O U I N
 N J U D K T C E U Q P N S T E
 E Q G C H R O M I T E E H E P
 T D A S I L V E R E L I T U R
 L L A U M O N T I T E L J K E
 B T E T I R A L U S S O R G S

This month's Word Search has the names of some of what has been found in Maryland through mining and collectors. **DEFINATELY NOT** the only minerals found in Maryland.

BLACK TOURMALINE
 SERPENTINE
 CHROMITE
 ZOISITE
 MOLYBDENITE
 MANGANESE
 GEOTHITE
 GARNET
 ASBESTOS
 PYRITE
 RUTILE
 COAL
 TALC

ZINC
 LEAD
 GOLD
 LAUMONTITE
 CALCITE
 QUARTZ
 BERYL
 EPIDOTE
 GROSSULARITE
 LIMESTONE
 SILVER
 STILBITE
 SULFUR



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

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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