



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

SEPTEMBER 2021

28 September 2021 at 1900
 Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL
 (next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)
 North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection
FACE MASK REQUIRED - Charles County Requirement

Silent Auction August

The Silent Auction went well for the limited attendance for the night. Feverish bidding occurred in the last 5 minutes of the set aside time period, but it appeared all that bided seemed pleased with their item gotten. At this time the final amount going back to the club is unknown, but many thanks to all that brought items for the auction and even more thanks to those that won the bids.

Changing Weather and COVID Rules

The club is going through rule changes with the local county requiring masks for all gatherings in county facilities. So we will require mask worn until further notice.

Multiple trips have been taken!! Contrary Creek, National Limestone, HK Penn Quarry, and Willis Mountain have been successes for all that attended. Upcoming is the Grand Opening of the James Madison University Mineral Museum.

Eight clubs have been invited to the opening on 29 October. This promises to be an outstanding evening of viewing many prior unseen Minerals found in Virginia. Details at=re found in this newsletter. ecommend if you bring a camera, ensure there is GIGABYTES of empty space for all the photos you may want to take.

Check Details on Page 6.

AUGUST 2021 MINUTES

AUGUST MINUTES submitted by Cheryl Reese

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 pm by Sondra

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: Kurt Miller is a new member to the club and was in attendance.

MEMBERSHIP: There are now 41 paid up-to-date members

EDITOR: Rich is in process of updating his membership mailing list distributing the newsletter. If you are a member and have

not received any newsletters, contact Rich and he will get you on the list.

TREASURER: Dave read the treasurers report, as decided on earlier, we will not be publishing that in the newsletter. Our meeting room has been paid in advance for 9 meetings. We will not meet in January or February due to the centers poor heating system.

EFMLS dues/insurance will need to be paid soon. At \$5.25/member it will be approximately \$200.00

WEBMASTER: No report

PROGRAMS: Sign up sheet passed around for programs/refreshments. September program will be a DVD from the Gemstone Adventure series, titled "The Gemstone Journey" Joe and Paula are letting us borrow their projector setup for viewing. Cheryl will provide light refreshments and drinks.

FIELD TRIPS: Sept 11, 2021 H.K. Penn Quarry, Dave would like at least 20 members to commit to attending.

NOT CONFIRMED- Lynchburg club is planning trip to Willis Mountain which generally occurs around 3rd Saturday in September. Dave is waiting to hear back from their trip leader.

NOT CONFIRMED- The Lancaster club is going to Mineral Hill Mine in Carroll County. Once again, waiting to hear if we can attend

Vulcan Manassas Quarry is still not allowing visitors

Several members expressed interest in going back to Lamberton Creek in Silver spring for garnets. Dave is looking into that.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave received a letter from AFMLS concerning money we had donated to the scholarship fund in memory of Michael Patterson. Michael was the director of the Clearwater Nature center and worked closely with our club. He passed away in early 2020.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNED: AT 7:20, followed by the club auction

PROGRAMS

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



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2021 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
SEPTEMBER	VIDEO	TBA
OCTOBER	TBA	TBA
NOVEMBER	Elections / TBA	TBA
DECEMBER	Holiday Party	Pot Luck

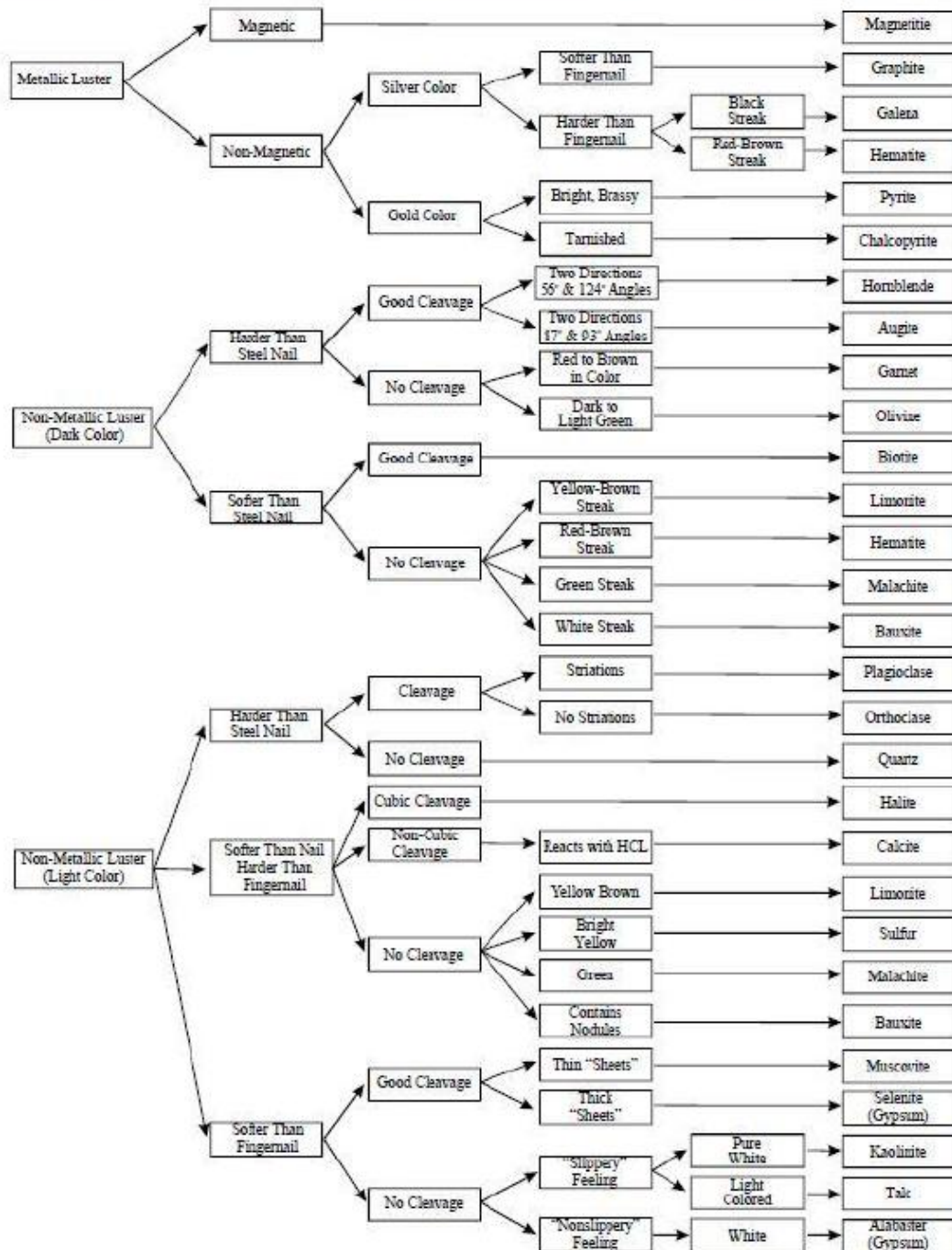


[I found this chart in another club's newsletter](#)

I thought that someone would find it helpful in identifying their mineral (rock)

Steve Howe's Mineral Identification Flowchart

(Provided by Steve to assist in your participation in the mineral identification exercise that will be part of the February 25, 2021 Virtual Meeting)



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 pandemic before attending any event.

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

**Very worthwhile for anyone interested in
Fluorescent Minerals!!**

Saturday, November 27, 2021

**Petrified Wood
Odessa, Delaware**

Invite from the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club **JOHN WOLF MEMORIAL TRIP TO ODESSA, DE** You can collect petrified wood (cypress), probably deposited in the Cretaceous or Paleocene Rancocas Group and then re-deposited in a Pleistocene bed. No special equipment is required and members with children, even young ones, can find them. This is a great field trip for new members. Other clubs have been also asked to participate. Some lucky people have also found arrowheads at this site, whose age ranges over thousands of years. Here is a great link to a write-up about a previous field trip there.

<http://viewsofthemahantango.blogspot.com/2011/08/petrified-wood-from-delaware.html>

Dave L. Will have further information for those interested in this trip. Multiple trip reports can be found at the club's website.



Drs. Lance & Cindy Kearns invite you to the Grand opening of the new James Madison University Mineral Museum.

It is on **Friday, October 29th at 4:30**, located in the **Festival Conference and Student Center** (lower level). **Please spread the word and the invitation to all members of your mineral club.** We are inviting all members from 8 different clubs, but we do not have individual addresses for everyone. If you are reading this, you are one of the few people in your club to receive this letter. Please, be certain that everyone who intends to come will send an RSVP, before October 22, 2021 to: You can respond either by email, by phone call, or by USPS. Please be sure to indicate which club you belong to.

Ann Marie Coe
COEAM@JMU.EDU

or **Mail to:**
Ann Marie Coe
540-568-7274 James Madison University
Office of Donor Relations
MSC 3604
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Directions to the James Madison University Mineral Museum

South Bound on I-81: Get off at **Exit # 245**
Turn **right** onto **Port Republic Road** at end of ramp
Go about 100 feet; **turn Right** in to campus through **Newman Lake Gate**
Proceed through campus to **first traffic light** and **Turn right.**

North Bound on I-81: Get off at **Exit # 245**
Turn **left** onto **Port Republic Road** at end of ramp

Follow road over I-81 then **turn Right** in to campus through **Newman Lake Gate.** Proceed through campus to **first traffic light** and **Turn right.**

Both

Follow road past the **Rose Library** to the next **traffic light.**
The **Festival Conference Center** is just ahead on your right. However, **turn left** at the light and find a parking place. Walk across road to **Festival Center Entrance.** The Mineral Museum is downstairs: Enter building and turn left. Follow to stairway (or elevator just beyond). Go down the stairway and turn left. Follow hallway around to **Mineral Museum (Room 1021).**

No Parking Pass needed if you park in lots **D3, C12, R4.** These lots are across the street from the Festival Center entrance. Also, the East Campus parking deck is available without parking pass. When on campus watch out for speed bumps, stop signs and students that walk out in front of you without looking.

Garnets and Gold by Dave Lines

“Every pan had garnets and most had a few small flecks of gold. From where did these treasures come, you ask?” A stream --- Contrary Creek by name. In the county of Louisa. Near the town of Mineral, Virginia --- aptly called because 31 minerals from the creek have been identified. Over 150 years ago, its adjacent hillsides were heavily mined for pyrite as a source for both iron and sulfur. And along the way, gold was discovered. One time, Contrary yielded a **nine (9) pound nugget** of that precious metal. It still resides in the Smithsonian.

Today, this stream bears the scars of these old mines. No life lives in it --- neither plant nor animal. The legacy of pyrite in the dumps and the creek lives on --- a very low pH -- - acidic water. The chemical formula of pyrite is FeS_2 --- iron sulfide. When water and oxygen are added to pyrite, it produces sulfuric acid --- H_2SO_4 . And there is *plenty* of pyrite still in the stream gravels. Much more pyrite than black sand. And the color on the outside of all the rocks in the stream is usually orange --- from the iron from the pyrite. An orange sludge is usually also over everything in the quiet, still portions of the stream. But not true this day, because of the recent abundant rainfall, Contrary Creek was clear and flowing fast --- and higher than usual for this time of year.

We used the high water to our advantage because the gravel bar just upstream from the Route 522 bridge was half covered by water. We simply dug down in the gravel until we hit a muddy layer. That mud had trapped the gold and the garnets as well as other interesting specimens like octahedral crystals of magnetite and small cubic crystals of pyrite. There were only five (5) of us --- Rich, Kim, Orion and Dave plus a friend and former SMRMC member from the village of Goldvein --- John S. --- who is an expert gold finder and a long time member of the Central Virginia Gold Prospectors. John has had much success in

Virginia streams over the years. Once, he showed us his riker mount with 2 ounces of gold nuggets that he found in Contrary Creek in a crack in the bedrock right under the bridge. Right where we were!



When Rich and I arrived at 7:30 am, John had already set up a small sluice box and was already finding gold and garnets. After greeting each other, John surveyed the gravel bar and pointed out where a previous gold dredger had dug down to the mica schist bedrock. He suggested that we dig there first. I did, while Rich dug in an area about 20 feet downstream. I spent about an hour digging out and classifying a 5 gallon bucket of material for panning out. My “classifier screen” has $\frac{1}{4}$ inch mesh, so I checked the larger gravel for big garnets. Only a few at first, but when I hit the mud layer, I found several of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter. Rich meanwhile was finding lots of excellent garnets still embedded in schist. His finds made very attractive specimens.



I was determined to find gold, so I panned about half of my five gallon bucket of classified material --- and found several very small specks of gold. I asked John to join me and try his luck panning some of the gravel and mud from the hole --- but he refused because he wanted us to find it. So I panned some of the material straight from the hole that contained a great amount of thick mud. It was full of garnets --- nice ones --- plus my first pan had two (2) larger pieces of gold. Eureka! They were not exactly "pickers", but were definitely much bigger than what I had found up to then.



After getting a bit lost on the way down from Maryland, Orion and Kim joined us about 9:00 am and I invited them to dig material from the same hole where I was digging. John also started to dig from that hole. All of us found garnets and both John and I panned some gold. I also used a small magnet to successfully extract small crystals of magnetite from the material in each gold pan. None were perfect, but several were nearly so. All were interesting finds.



Throughout our field trip visit, the weather was great with the air temperature in the 80's. Very pleasant. John gave up about noon, while the rest of us stayed about another hour. Overall, another successful and fun trip to Contrary Creek.

All photos by the photos by Orion Jurkowski

HK Penn-MD Quarry Trip Report

9-11-21

by Dave Lines

"We drove into Pennsylvania to rockhound in Maryland?" Huh? Yup. The quarry actually *straddles* the Mason Dixon Line -- which is the official boundary between these two (2) states. In fact, one of the original Mason Dixon rock markers which were placed every mile apart is actually on this mine property --- we all drove right by it when we caravanned into the mine. The rock is protected by a vertical section of corrugated culvert pipe which is painted bright yellow. The mine manager, Jay, said they will eventually have to move the rock marker to mine *under* it. (Can you imagine the paperwork/legal/surveying hassle that will entail!?) Their plan is to mine all the way to the road by power plant that we drove past just before PA-MD state line.



Most of us arrived about 7:45 am, changed into our safety gear and started looking (and collecting some specimens) near where we parked. Earlier, Rich and I had stopped at the nearby Royal Farms station/food court and purchased a gift certificate to give to the miners at the quarry as a gesture of our thanks. Everyone donated generously toward this effort with a cash donation. Shortly before 8:00 am, I went in to talk with Jay for a while and gave him the gift certificate. He was genuinely appreciative. It never hurts to recognize the mine manager and his team for their personal sacrifice to come in on a Saturday morning (normally their time off) to baby sit rockhounds. My son Jeff (a mining engineer in Colorado) says food is *always* a suitable gift because miners love to eat.



As soon we (Ralph G. and Mary, Rich, Bill and Debbie, Ralph B., Tim and Lorna S. and daughter Francesca, Orion and Kim, Harry and Tina, Jim W., Joe and Paula, and I) had all arrived, we signed the waiver in the mine office, and then received a safety/mine status brief

from Jay. He said we were the only club to visit since a group in July and we were only the second club since the end of 2019. They had done a tremendous amount of work since we were there last. Regarding safety, he said no walking on the shot and to stay off all the berms. He said to stay *on* the quarry floor. He specifically mentioned being unhappy with folks who climbed on berms. One of our group had brought a long handled hoe to reach up on the berm to drag down stuff --- Jay said that was okay as long as they stood on quarry floor and pulled down rocks --- but didn't pull a big rock onto themselves and get hurt.



Regarding mine status, the sloughing of the highwall on the north side of the quarry in the Fall of 2019 caused them to change the road into the pit. The access is now from MD side --- so we had to go around the office on right (west) side instead of going to the left (east) side.



There are currently 5 levels in the mine. Level 5 was flooded and all under water. Level 4 was very muddy and wet and had a new shot, but was not washed off from any rain. Jay advised that we not drive down into level 4 because of the mud and to tell him before any of us wanted to walk down to level 4. Joe and I eventually walked down there to check it out --- it was a waste of our time and there no place to walk unless you walked in deep mud.



At about 8:30 am, we caravanned to Level 3 --- it was super. The plentiful rain from the remnants of Hurricane Ida had washed everything off and the berms/floor were full of goodies. Lots of green translucent serpentine, picrolite, antigorite and pretty rocks --- especially on MD side of the level. Minerals like Brucite and McGuinnessite were easily seen

since they were so clean. Ralph G. said he and Mary also found specimens of chalcedony plus many rocks that looked like they held good micros. Joe found a very interesting fist sized piece that was botryoidal stalactites in shape, but covered with small yellowish quartz crystals.

We stayed there until 11:00 am when moved up to level 2 which was not as good since it was very limited in size and the rocks were mostly covered in gray dust, so we could not see "color". A few, small areas had clean rocks and that is where we looked. We found much more McGuinnessite on level 2 however. We stayed on level 2 until 11:45 am and then we all caravanned out.



Overall, everyone found lots of nice green rocks for lapidary and we left plenty.

ANTIGORITE - found at the Haines & Kibblehouse Penn-Maryland Quarry, PA (HK Penn Quarry)



PICROLITE found at the Haines & Kibblehouse Penn-Maryland Quarry, PA (HK Penn Quarry)



GEOLOGICAL TIME PERIODS

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

This month we have the periods of Geological time to find.

ARCHEAN	OLIGOCENE
CAMBRIAN	ORDOVICIAN
CENOZOIC	PALEOCENE
DEVONIAN	PALEOZOIC
EOCENE	PENNSYLVANIAN
HOLOCENE	PERMIAN
JURASSIC	PLEISTOCENE
MESOZOIC	PLIOCENE
MIOCENE	SILURIAN
MISSISSIPPIAN	TRIASSIC



The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club
Meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday of each month at
7:00pm
Held at the OLD WALDORF SCHOOL
Next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall
3074 Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD 20601
North of the RT 301 / RT 5 intersection
We're on the web: SMRMC.ORG

SMRMC OFFICERS
PRESIDENT
Sondra Fielder

Program Vice President Carole Rauchaison	Membership Vice President Joe Davis
Secretary Cheryl Reese	Webmaster Bob Davidson
Field Trip Chairman David Lines	Treasurer David Lines

Rock Talk Editor
Richard Simcsak

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

