



# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## ROCK TALK

## APRIL 2022

26 April 2022 at 1900 (7 PM)  
 Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL  
 (next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)  
 North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

### Happy Hunting was done by Many!!

Since the last month's meeting, it has been a rockhound's dream with the options of going to five (5) different sites for collecting! True, all sites were visited last year, BUT, there is always new material to be found!

**Chestnut Ridge, VA**

**National Limestone Quarries,  
PA**

**Morefield Mine, VA**

**Odessa, DE**

**Lancaster County, PA**

And as always, we have had chances for fossil hunting with the seasonal very low tides along Calvert County Chesapeake Bay and Charles County Potomac River.

From talking with members of other clubs, it appears to me that the SMRMC is possibly the most active field trip clubs on in the tri-state area.

### Future Field Trips

**-NEWS FLASH-**

**Hello SMRMC Members --- We have been offered 10 slots for the May 14th trip with the Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Club.**

**Any member can sign up for this trip, but PRIORITY will be given to those who did not attend our 4-09-22 trip. If you want to go, please email me with your name and cell phone number soon as I am supposed to report back to their Field Trip Coordinator by May 2nd. Thanks. Best, Dave**

**ALSO.....Official SMRMC Field Trip to National Limestone at Middleburg Quarry and Mount Pleasant Mills Quarry on Saturday June 11, 2022 from 9:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Contact Dave Lines at the next meeting or via email if there is interest in either of these trips! Pictures and a trip report on the past visit to National Limestone is in the edition of the **ROCK TALK starting on Page 12!!**

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<b>2022 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>
APRIL 26	<b>Serpentine - Ralph Gamba</b>	<b>Susan Knower</b>
MAY 24	<b>California Trip - Dave Lines</b>	<b>Alton and Teresa</b>
JUNE 28	<b>Herkimer Mine - Joe Davis</b>	<b>Paula Davis</b>
JULY 26	<b>Paint Workshop - Kurt Knower</b>	<b>Cheryl Reese</b>
AUGUST 23	<b>Annual Club Auction</b>	<b>Pot Luck (??)</b>
SEPTEMBER 27	<b>Moroccan Agates - Bob Farrar</b>	<b>Greta Gormley</b>
OCTOBER 25	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
NOVEMBER 22	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
DECEMBER TBD	<b>Seasonal Party (??)</b>	<b>Pot Luck (??)</b>

Dates are tentative. Changes are possible due to a multitude of reasons.

**MARCH 2022 MINUTES**

MARCH MINUTES submitted by Cheryl  
MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:04 by  
Joe

**VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS:** 1 visitor checking  
our club out. Currently we have 51 paid  
members

**WEBMASTER:** Bob has posted some  
information on our upcoming November rock  
show on the site.

**TREASURER:** Report was read and made  
available for anyone who wants to view it.  
The report will not be published.

**PROGRAMS:** Upcoming programs and  
refreshments are:

**APRIL** - Ralph Gamba on Serpentine // Susan  
Knower

**MAY** - Dave Lines on California trip.//.Alton  
and Teresa

**JUNE**- Joe Davis on Herkimer Mine.//.Paula  
Davis

**JULY**- Kurt Knower Paint Workshop.//.Cheryl  
Reese

**AUG** - Annual Auction .//. ??Pot Luck??

**SEPT** - Bob Farrar on Moroccan Agates  
Greta Gormley

**FIELD TRIPS:**

**3/26/22** Chestnut Ridge , VA for quartz xls,  
trip date may be changed due to inclement  
weather.

**4/9/22** National Limestone and MPM, PA.,  
This is a joint trip with Montgomery club.  
Minerals: calcite, celestite, strontianite,  
fluorite, flowstone and wavellite

**4/16/22** 2 choices

#1 Odessa, DE with CMM fossil club for  
petrified wood

#2 Morefield Mine, VA for Fundraiser day.  
See flier in the newsletter.

**5/7-8/22** Primitive Technology weekend at  
Cromwell Valley state park in Parkville MD.  
Learn how to flint knap rhyolite on May 7 at  
noon or beginners knapping at 2:30

**5/20-22/22** Graves Mountain ,GA “Swap and  
Dig” specimens are Rutile and Iridescent  
Hematite. No trip leader, this is go on your  
own, you can use Google for the information

**6/11/22** National Limestone, PA. Two (2)  
quarries again with the Montgomery Club.  
Info and sign-up sheet at later date.

**TBD** Possible trip to Herkimer, NY in May or  
the fall led by Joe

Other possible trips are US Silica, Montpelier,  
VA and H.K.Penn Quarry, PA/MD.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was a big discussion  
about the upcoming rock show, concerning  
table pricing, layout, vendors etc. Paula will  
put together a flier to distribute to members  
for them to hang in various business  
locations for advertisement. Dave is emailing  
all the members of the club the info he has  
worked on so far and expenses. He is also  
putting together a volunteer list of jobs to  
sign up for. All your help and talents are  
greatly appreciated.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Greta Gormley has  
graciously offered to house any speakers we  
may get for the club who have to travel far.  
She has an Air Bnb near National Harbor.  
Joe and Paula have purchased and will  
donate a new A/V system for the club to use  
for programs. Thank you!

**ADJOURNED:** at 8:10 followed by door  
prizes, refreshments by Jill and a video  
presentation on Mining in America was  
previewed.

## Calendar of Events

**April 30, 2022 to May 1, 2022** - Leesport, PA - **Berks Mineralogical Society Presents the 53rd Annual "World of Gems & Minerals, Gemstones, Jewelry, Rock Mineral & Fossil Show**. Located at: The Pavilion at Leesport Farmers Market next to the Banquet Hall 312 Gernant's Church Rd. Leesport, PA 19533. April 30 and May 1st 2022, Sat 10-5 | Sun 10-4, SATURDAY ONLY TAILGATE SECTION. Admission Donation \$4, Mineral Displays, Activities, Speakers, Tailgaters Welcome! Educational! Great for kids of all ages! The Best show in Berks County

**June 04/05, 2022** - Gem Miner's Spring Show, Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd., West Friendship, MD 21794

**July 23/24, 2022** - Monongahela Rockhound Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show, West Mifflin VFC #4, 660 Noble Dr., Pittsburg, PA 15122

**August 19,20,21-2022**, Gem Miner's Jubilee, Lebanon Expo Center, Fairgrounds, Lebanon, PA

**September 16,17,18-2022**, Shenandoah Valley Gem & Mineral Society Show, Augusta Expo, 277 Expo Rd., Fishersville, VA 22939

**September 23,24,25-2022**, Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Richmond International Raceway, 600 E. Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23222

**September 24/25,2022** - Central PA Rock Mineral & Gem Show, 2701 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Harrisburg, PA

**October 08, 2022** - PhilaMineralSociety.org/mineral-show, St. Michael Picnic Grove, Mont Claire, PA (near Phoenixville, PA)

**October 15/16-2022**, Kanawha Rock and Gem Show, so. Charleston Community Ctr, 601 Jefferson Rd., South Charleston, WV 25309

**October 29 2022 - 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; 215-713-8020 or email uvgeologist@yahoo.com

**November 5, 2022 - SMRMC Show.** Old Waldorf School, Waldorf MD.

### **Crystals Galore --- Two Kinds --- Quartz and Ice** by Dave Lines

It was the sixth day of Spring 2022, and it was SNOWING LIKE CRAZY! We were in a caravan of four vehicles driving on the narrow, paved country road about five miles from our destination IN A TOTAL WHITE-OUT! We were all starting to wonder whether this field trip was a good idea or not. Despite closely monitoring the forecasts all week, the weather was looking very grim at that moment. The snow-covered woods and fields on either side of the road already had an inch or two of snow and it was piling up fast. It may have been a beautiful winter wonderland scene to some, but we were planning a mile long hike up a steep mountain, and snow cover would be a trip killer. Most of us had already driven four (4) hours at this point and quitting was not an option, so we pressed on.



Miraculously, within a couple of miles, the snow stopped as abruptly as it had started. In another mile, the pavement was almost dry. When we pulled into the farmyard at the foot of Chestnut Ridge, there was zero snow. Awesome! But it was COLD --- about 32 degrees with a steady wind from the west. Fortunately, we were

going to remain on the east side of the mountain in the lee of the wind. After a quick brief and explanation of the plan and timeline, we (Orion, Sam, Aaron, Wendy, Rich and Dave) took a group selfie and headed up the mountain. I touched base with the new neighbor along the way and explained that we were members of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club and had permission from the owner to park in the farmyard as well as written permission from the National Forest Service to collect quartz crystals from this location. They wished us luck and thanked me for letting them know.

By the time I reached the rest of our group, they had strung out up the mountain. I began marking a trail -basically straight up --- with bright pink surveyor tape so everyone could ascend/descend at their own speed without getting lost.



Then the torture began for us all. It is impossible to explain --- you just need to experience it to appreciate the pain required to reach the top. The mountain



seems too steep. The dead brown leaves covering the ground seem too slippery. The various obstacles like trees, loose rocks and fallen logs seem too hard to step over or around while keeping your balance. You realize that you are carrying too much weight. The air temperature is cold, but you are sweating. Your leg muscles start complaining. Your knees begin to let you know they are not happy. You want to slow down, but others are already ahead of you. Anyway, everyone eventually makes it far enough to find and collect some beautiful quartz crystals. This is a fine old mountain, and it keeps its treasures by not letting it be too easy.



When I reached the top at about 10:30 am (1-1/2 hours after I had started), the place looked totally undisturbed since we had been here in 2019. So that meant that the other folks who had collected here in the meantime had covered their holes and scattered some leaf litter over the area they had collected from. Well done and thank you to them. We want to be able to continue collecting and, if we take care of it, there are plenty of crystals for many more generations.



I picked a spot where a few crystals peeked up from the leaves and started searching for specimens. The crystals up here are both loose and attached to clusters of all sizes. It is also possible to open the larger rocks with a heavy hammer and chisel to find specimens. The quartz crystal

seams in the rock are easy to see. Whenever we collect, we always keep in mind that our time on top is limited to a few hours because we need to allow for time to wrap our finds with old newspaper, pack up, descend and drive back home.



Today, we would have additional challenges --- snow squalls.



In 15 or 20 minutes, Wendy arrived and immediately began to find crystals. In a few more minutes, Orion showed up and started his search. Then, the first of several

snow squalls hit us. It was sunny one minute, and in the next, it was blasting us with “snow pellets” that looked like small pieces of white Styrofoam. Everything was covered with snow in seconds. We scrambled to cover ourselves and our stuff. I took a picture of the snow dumping on Orion. With the strong wind and swirling snow, it looked like we were in a blizzard. Yet, within a few minutes it stopped (thankfully!). Then the warm spring sun came out and melted all the snow within ten minutes. Fascinating. This process repeated itself several more times throughout the afternoon. We stayed warm only by putting on every article of clothing we had including pulling our hoods over our heads. An amazing experience. Aaron came up over the edge of the cliff during one of those squalls --- I snapped a great picture of him. The “abominable snowman”. Funny.

Three of our group (Sam, Aaron and Rich) also collected specimens in the lower third of the mountain. They all found some good specimens there through a combination of breaking open rocks with visible seams and by finding them on or near the surface. The advantage of finding them inside of the rocks is that that are more likely to be perfect. The trade-off is that it takes more time.

At about 2 pm, two young grandsons of the new neighbor down below came up to the top to get my contact information. The neighbor wanted us to let them know whenever we planned to come back again so it would not be a surprise. The grandsons must have *run* up the mountain because they said it had taken



much less than an hour to reach the top. As soon as we had traded phone numbers, they returned as quickly as they had appeared. Oh, to be so young again.



Before we knew it, it was time to leave and one at a time we began to tidy up our collecting areas by smoothing our diggings and covering them with old leaves and dead limbs so the area would have minimal erosion and blend into the forest.

Then we wrapped our finds individually with old newspaper to prevent damage to the crystals on the way down the mountain and the trip home. As soon as we packed our back packs and buckets with our few hand tools and our crystals, another snow squall hammered us. This time, it left enough snow to almost cover the ground. Nevertheless, we had to get off the mountain, so we started our descent. It was challenging --- and slippery. I heard later that folks experienced a few tumbles on the way down, but, fortunately there were no injuries. Going down is never easy because we are carrying more weight (our finds) and we are tired. We removed all of our surveyor tape along the way, and I picked up an old can and a piece of candy wrapper, so we left the mountain cleaner than we found it.



At the bottom, I changed out of my heavy clothing and coveralls and got inside Rich's truck which felt great because it was nice and warm inside --- thanks Rich! We waited until everyone had come down and had started their vehicles, before our



remaining three vehicles pulled out and headed home. It had been another fun trip.



**“An Old Friend Revisited” --- Trip Report for Morefield Mine April 16, 2022** by Dave Lines

As many of you may know, the Morefield Gem Mine in Amelia, Virginia has been in a “for sale” status for over ten years. Since the late 1990’s, Sam Dunaway (a semi-retired mining engineer) and his wife Sharon had actively mined the complex pegmatite for gem quality amazonite, topaz, beryl, mica plus many other minerals and spread out the mined material for everyone to collect. They were wonderful hosts to busloads of Virginia school children

on weekdays and opened the mine every Saturday to the public. Both the owners and the mine were beloved by thousands of rockhounds of all ages. However, despite being world famous --- an actual section of the mine is displayed at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington --- the Morefield has not been sold yet. And the State of Virginia has now required it to be placed in “temporary cessation” --- meaning it will be left intact but sealed up.



This winter, Sam Dunaway mentioned that they were going to have a “rock fundraiser day” at the Morefield sometime in the Spring to both reduce as much rock as possible on the property while raising money to prepare for the mine shutdown. In March, Sam sent me a “flier” which I emailed to our members as well as to many of the other local rock clubs in our area. The event was scheduled for Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 6 pm. The flier emphasized that all items would be priced for sale, but there would be “no digging”. As it turned out, digging was allowed, albeit in a different way than in the past.

Our club had not been to the Moreland since 2012 except for a single visit in 2015. So, in order to support Sam

and Sharon, I decided to attend the “fundraiser”. But no one else from our club wanted to go. Perhaps it was because of a competing trip the same day to Odessa for petrified wood. Maybe it was because it was Easter weekend. Or maybe it was because of the “no digging” restriction. Anyway, people had other plans.



Unfortunately, not very many people showed up. When I arrived at 9:30 AM and proceeded to drive in, I met “Nicko” who said Sam had told him to stop folks at the gate until 10 am. I went in anyway and after giving Sharon some daffodils and Sam a large, sweet potato (12 pounds) (another story), I offered to help them with last minute preps.

Behind their shop was a large rock pile of miscellaneous, but interesting, rocks from all over Virginia. I noticed petrified wood, unakite, and numerous others piled about two feet deep. There was a cardboard sign --- “\$1 per pound”. Judging from the tree growing out of the center, that pile had been there a long time. I saw another sign for \$1 per pound for the rocks near the rock saws. There was also a sign on a 2-foot diameter boulder of amazonite “this already sold to Joe”. I walked down to

the mine with Sam where he posted another sign “\$10/pound for amazonite” above the huge pile of stockpiled material from down in the mine. There was another sign there “\$40 per 5 gal bucket --- no highgrading”. Sam said his intent was for people to take a bucket of Morefield mine-run material home to sort through and if they just high-graded the amazonite, it would cost them \$10 per pound.



By this time, people were already arriving at the parking area, so I left Sam while he drove his truck back up out of the mine area. I grabbed a cardboard box from my truck and headed to that rockpile behind the shop where I selected 30 pounds of petrified wood. Then back into the shop to pay for my wood and to see what else Sharon had for sale. I purchased a large pink with black webbing cabochon which was inside a small plastic zip lock bag on which was hand-printed “Rhodonite, Fluvanna, W.B. 92”. Bingo! This was a cab made personally by Warren “Bill” Baltzley of rhodonite which he had mined at his rhodonite claim near Kidd’s Store, VA. Bill Baltzley was the former owner of the Morefield who developed it for a recreational mine. At one time, he also owned/leased several other area mines



including the Rutherford. The cab, in addition to being beautiful, represented a neat bit of history.

The shop had numerous display cases full of pre-priced amazonite, mica, Rutherford cleavelandite, custom made jewelry, and various Morefield specimens. I left and took my purchases back to my truck and snapped a couple of pics including one overlooking the stockpile area down at the mine. Several people were already there finding specimens. I picked up my bucket, a brush, heavy gloves and a foam rubber pad to kneel on and headed that way.

Immediately, I met a friend Bernard from the Lynchburg Club who showed me a 3" x 1" diameter piece of topaz which looked clear and flawless to me. He had just found it in the stockpile area and had paid for it in the shop for the incredible price of only \$12. Amazing! I congratulated him and hurried down the path to the stockpile to look for some more. I picked a spot near Andy Dietz and his wife Chris and started digging. I stayed right there for the next four hours digging with a piece of rock (no tools allowed). I tried to select only the darkest, deepest blue-green, best colored amazonite. I also kept looking for topaz. I found numerous pieces of white opaque massive topaz, some of which I kept and some of which I gave to others there.

It was *really fun!* It was all about the hunt and the thrill of discovery. I have never found or even seen so much amazonite. There were dozens of complete mica crystals. I gave away to Andy and the others most of what I found. I tried to keep only the best. This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It was like a banker

letting you into the vault to take what ever treasures you wanted --- with the significant difference, of course, being that we had to pay for what we found. Therein lies the rub. People were ecstatic while digging, but at the end of the day, there were a lot of hard decisions to be made deciding what to keep when they realized their 5-gallon bucket had \$500 worth of material in it.



When I left at 3:30, there was still over half of the pile that was untouched. There were also other piles that people had barely looked at that were for sale for \$1 per pound that I did not have time to examine. Some of that material had been in the same piles for 30 plus years. Who



knows what Bill Baltzley put there? There was also a long row of Fluvanna County rhodonite still left where Bill Baltzley put it in the late 1980's --- all black on the outside. One of Sam's helpers (Nicko) said it was solid pink on the inside. Pieces ranged from 1 to 3 feet in diameter. It was very heavy material. No prices on it, but another cardboard sign said: "everything for sale --- price negotiable with Sam".



There was also a rumor going around that Sam will have another sale in the Fall --- maybe open to the public? That would be great. I hope it will happen --- for the sake of those who missed this one. Until then, I hope you can join us for some other field trips --- they are all fun.

*\*If you would like to learn more about the Morefield --- its fabulous history, past owners, the 80 minerals found there ---*

*go to their website  
"morefieldgemmine.com".*



### **National Limestone Quarries --- Another "Iffy" Weather Forecast, but a Great Trip** by Dave Lines

The weather forecast all week for central Pennsylvania called for a cold, windy Saturday with 40 to 50 % chance of rain. And the long drive up there surely looked like that prediction was going to be the case. Rich and I were in almost continual light rain showers from 5 am when we left La Plata. With the wet roads and heavy road spray from the traffic, the windshield wipers were in constant motion. Then when we were north of Harrisburg, a "sucker hole" (as Rich called it) appeared ---

a small blue patch of sky opened in the heavy clouds. And, lo and behold, when we arrived at the National Limestone office at Middleburg about 9:15 am, the sky became a beautiful blue with some fluffy white clouds.



Our small group (Joe, Harry, Tina, Rich, Ethan, Katie M., Ross, Tim, Lorna, Francesca and Dave) thought we were going to be sharing the trip with about ten members of the Montgomery County, MD club --- but --- surprise --- there was at 30 vehicles already parked in front of the Office. Turns out that the owner Eric had invited other rock clubs as well --- including Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association (from Lehigh Valley, PA) and the Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society (from Baltimore). It was a bit crowded with 40

people inside the office when Eric gave his personal Christian testimony and a safety brief. He also mentioned that there had been no new “shots”, but since it had rained all week, the rocks were clean and there was lots of gray mud. He also said that they had recently dug out the “wavellite pit” on the backside of the Mount Pleasant Mills quarry and, although there was plenty of wavellite, he asked that we take only 3 pieces per person so other clubs could find some when they came.

Starting at 9:45 am, we all caravanned up into the Middleburg quarry. Everyone spread out and searched around the quarry finding druzy calcite crystals, purple fluorite embedded in massive calcite seams, some travertine, and at least one specimen of calcite over sphalerite (zinc sulfide). The mud was impressive, but no one got stuck. At 11 am, we collectively decided to move as a group to the Mount Pleasant Mills (MPM) quarry about 5 miles away.



At MPM, we all split up with many vehicles going to the wavellite pit and the rest going into the main quarry. I heard later that there was a very sizeable crowd searching the wavellite area, so I am glad we chose to remain down below. In the



quarry itself, most of the car-sized boulders that were there last summer had been broken into smaller pieces about one to two feet square and segregated by rock type into several large piles.



Rich pulled his truck next to the first pile on the right and we both separated to look for the best collecting. I did a fast walk around of the quarry floor noting the areas that contained “vuggy” rocks, since the primary mineral crystals found here --- calcite --- formed in “openings”, or “vugs”, in the limestone. Returning to the truck, I looked over what Rich had spotted, and we decided to tackle a large boulder showing lots of holes and vugs filled with small calcite crystals, some of which were covered with white strontianite crystals. The strontianite crystals ranged from tiny white balls to fluffy half inch diameter mounds. Some looked like delicate snowflakes. We worked on that boulder for about 30 minutes and collected and carefully wrapped several flats of good material.



Then we moved the truck to the far (south) side of the quarry where I had earlier seen some nice vuggy rocks. To reach that area, Rich drove around the edge of a 100-foot diameter “pond” of red muddy water --- courtesy of the recent heavy rains. His beautiful shiny dark blue truck was now a muddy mess. Rich and I, plus Katie who was already there, began carefully examining the various rocks in a low rock pile that was spread out over an area of about 1,000 square feet. Sam, Elliott, and Tim joined us. All of us found some keepers. Drusy calcite crystals were plentiful. Rich and I collected several flats of it. Katie found the largest calcite crystals (up to 1”) which were all in rather good



shape inside a couple of vugs. Elliott was probably the luckiest (...er, most skillful) when he split apart a rock with a thin calcite seam showing --- inside were two beautiful sky blue celestite crystals. Probably his best find-of-the-day! We also found a good amount of unweathered, very delicate white strontianite crystals in both snowflake and round mound habits. In one large boulder which I split open were some calcite crystals with an iridescent hematite coating which sparkled with various rainbow colors in the sunshine. Speaking of sunshine, for several hours around mid-day the weather was wacky --- it rained, the sun shone brightly, it sleeted, it was cloudy and cold, it was warm, it snowed little white pellets of "graupel". I kept putting on extra clothing to keep warm, and then a few minutes later, removing it because I was too hot. Strange.



By 2 pm, the number of collectors remaining in the quarry had dwindled to less than ten. Rich and I decided to move to the backside of the ridge behind the quarry to the wavellite pit, figuring that the big crowd there was gone. Katie in her small car and another two men (can't remember their names) from the Chesapeake Club in their full-sized pickup followed. Thankfully,

the long and very narrow road to the pit had been cleaned up and widened by removing the encroaching vegetation along the sides. There was another collector at the pit when we arrived --- so a total of four vehicles were now parked in a line blocking the road at the pit.

The quarry owner had mentioned at the morning safety briefing that they had recently dug out the pit. Wow! It was twenty feet deep and there was wavellite laying all over the place. I could see where collectors earlier in the day had sorted through their finds to keep the best three specimens, while leaving the rest in piles. Anyway, it was hard to choose only three. Since most of the loose rocks were covered with red clay, I asked Rich if he had any extra water in the truck. Yes. He brought out a one-gallon plastic jug of it. I put about half into my bucket and climbed down into the pit and, hoping to uncover some hidden wavellite, I began scrubbing off the red clay off rocks that might have some wavellite under the clay.



Bingo. I found a couple of keepers, including one that contained a 3" x 3" area of perfect, dark green round wavellite crystals. There were 20 or so crystals that

ranged from ¼" to 1/8" in diameter. The other keeper was a rare 2" x 1" x 1" "hanging cluster" of wavellite balls that were totally complete all the way around. It had one small contact point where it had been attached to the pocket wall. Unfortunately, the cluster was covered with a hard quartz sand that proved impossible to remove. Nevertheless, it serves as a prime example of what potential is in that pit because if the coating had not been there, it would have been a very valuable specimen. I also found a large rock covered on one side with a thin coating of green wavellite and a few scattered wavellite balls. Later at home, I broke this specimen while trying to remove some of the matrix. The rest of the folks had some success as well and everyone took home some wavellite specimens.



We decided to leave about 3:30 pm, but we spent the next 30 minutes shifting vehicles around the first guy's car and then turning them around, so we could drive back out the way we came in. It was a challenge. Rich and I then took the truck out to the quarry office, hoping to find a water hose to scrub off some of the mud that had accumulated on Rich's truck. But -- no hose. So, Rich parked the truck in a large, nearby water puddle and we took turns scrubbing off copious amounts of gray limestone mud and crushed rock.

What a day it had been. We found lots of rocks and drove about 400 miles in the process. And the price of gas? Well, the pump total at final fill-up was amazing. No one ever said rockhounding was free. But overall, the day was worth every penny. I hope you will be able to join us on our next field trip.

### Odds and Ends

***Mineral Informatics: Visualizing the amazing mineral kingdom***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhI9mYhnWQQ>

***Little magnets, big geodynamics***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6q4rhb6u1k>

***The Geologic Oddity in Arizona; The Largest Kimberlite Pipe in the World***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYx\\_Gvh2kk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYx_Gvh2kk)

**2021 DRAFT LIST OF CRITICAL MINERALS (PART DUEX)**

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

28 of the 67 Critical Minerals are in this month's Word Search. Numbers behind each mineral is how they are listed for highest to lowest supply chain risk in the Federal Register. The entire list is found in the Federal Register / Vol 86, No 214 / Tuesday, November 9, 2021 / Notices.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/11/09/2021-24488/2021-draft-list-of-critical-minerals>

**MAGNESIUM (23)**  
**GERMANIUM (24)**  
**PALLADIUM (25)**  
**GRAPHITE (28)**  
**CHROMIUM (29)**  
**POTASH (38)**  
**PHOSPHATE (45)**  
**MOLYBDENUM (51)**  
**MICA (47)**  
**ZIRCONIUM (50)**

**GOLD (52)**  
**ARSENIC (30)**  
**INDIUM (32)**  
**SAMARIUM (33)**  
**NICKEL (41)**  
**COPPER (42)**  
**STRONTIUM (39)**  
**LITHIUM (35)**  
**TELLURIUM (36)**  
**SILVER (46)**

**MANGANESE (34)**  
**PHENIUM (40)**  
**BERYLLIUM (43)**  
**FELDSPAR (44)**  
**CESIUM (NR)**  
**SELENIUM (48)**  
**CADNIUM (49)**  
**IRON ORE (54)**





**The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club**  
Meetings take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://SMRMC.ORG)

**SMRMC OFFICERS**  
**PRESIDENT**  
Joe Davis

<b>Program Vice President</b> Carole Raucheson	<b>Membership Vice President</b> <i>Looking for a Volunteer</i>
<b>Secretary</b> Cheryl Reese	<b>Webmaster</b> Bob Davidson
<b>Field Trip Chairman</b> David Lines	<b>Treasurer</b> David Lines

**Rock Talk Editor**  
Rich 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

