



# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## ROCK TALK

## APRIL 2023

25 APRIL 2023 at 1900 (7 PM)  
Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL  
(next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)  
North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

### **APRIL PROGRAM**

#### **QUARRY SAFETY**

Rich Simcsak (that's me!) will be revisiting a brief done BC - (Before COVID) as a reminder of what is expected from club members when they are allowed into a quarry site to collect. By club members staying well within the rules of the quarries and staying safe and without incidents, we have better chances of being re-allowed to visit and collect. Examples of "what not to do" will be discussed.

#### **IN THIS EDITION**

Predicting Blowout Tides  
Odessa, DE Petrified Wood finds  
Climbing Chestnut Ridge for Quartz Crystals  
WildAcres Workshop

#### **Next Month in ROCK TALK**

National Limestone Visit  
Rose River Visit

### **MARCH 2023 MINUTES**

#### **SMRMC 28 MARCH 2023 MINUTES**

Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD

October Minutes submitted by Teresa. Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Vice President Sue Knower, in the absence of Joe.

**VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS:** 29 Members in attendance . New Members present: John Sorg, Ellen Bowie, Richard Tyson, John Matthews, Jack and Jennifer Novak, Abdul ? (didn't get last name)

**SECRETARY:** The minutes were accepted by consensus.

**MEMBERSHIP:** 97+ members. Many of the new members joined as a result of the Rock Show and/or web site information.

Sue asked for a volunteer to fill the position of Membership Chairman. Vycki Borgnis agreed to serve in this capacity.

**FACEBOOK:** Facebook posts/members: 260. Kurt encouraged folks to join the Facebook is looking for educational postings of interest.

**WEBSITE:** Bob was absent but a member confirmed that the website “looks good.”

**NEWSLETTER:** Rich needs the emails of all the new members so they will receive the newsletter. He encouraged members to send him articles of interest and ideas of what they would like to see in the newsletter. He regularly includes details about upcoming rock shows from other clubs.

**TREASURER:** Greta reported on the financial situation, saying that there were still a few new membership checks to deposit. She reported that the club is in very good shape financially.

**PROGRAMS:** Susan informed the members that the club has three (3) openings for programs and snacks. (Sept., Oct., Nov.) She encouraged anyone who has information on a certain topic to consider presenting to the group.

**FIELD TRIP REPORT:** Dave

### Recent Past Field Trips

**January 21 ---Morefield Mine, Amelia, VA ---** 30 members attended --- Special one-time opening of mine for us. Lots of positive feedback. Especially popular were \$40 take home five (5)-gallon buckets of mine run material from stockpile. Amazonite, mica (large crystals), topaz, VA petrified wood, small crystals of rare earths (columbite, tantalite also collected. Eight (8) members went on underground tour of mine with owner. According to a report in Richmond Club Newsletter, mine has been sold (not confirmed).

**March 25 --- Chestnut Ridge, Bath County, VA** for quartz crystals --- Six (6) members

attended. Trip was moved from Saturday to Sunday due to rain on Friday and Saturday. Weather Sunday was perfect – sunny in 60’s.

**Upcoming Field Trips: April 1 ---** Joint Trip with Delaware Mineral Society to Phoenixville, PA for pyromorphite and other minerals in **Wheatley Mine dumps**. Sign-up List is FULL.

**April 15 ---** Joint Trip with Montgomery County Club to **Nat’l Limestone Quarries** in Middleburg and Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA --- 9 am to 4 pm. Calcite crystals, purple fluorite, strontianite, celestite, cave flowstone, wavellite xls. Trip announcement and sign-up will be by email. Full Safety gear is required for all attendees. Kids must be at least ten (10) years old, wearing FULL Safety gear (hardhat, safety glasses steel-toed boots, gloves and long pants) and accompanied by one adult per kid.

**April 29 --- Madison County, VA ---** unakite, blue quartz, metabasalt --- Robinson River on private land (permission has been secured). Meeting location and parking will be in the town of Madison. Trip info/announcement sent. Sign-up will be tonight and by email.

**Possible April- May TBD** (this trip not firm yet) --- Joint Trip with Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club to Odessa, DE for petrified wood. Trip date has not been set up by Host yet. Trip announcement and sign-up will be by email as soon as info available.

### OLD BUSINESS

Dave reminded everyone that our 2023 Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show will be held Oct. 7 (not in November). It will be a two day event Fri. night, Oct. 6 will be for set-

up and the show will be Sat., Oct. 7 9 am-4 pm.

Members were reminded of the week-long "workshop", held in the NC mountains in May. The cost includes meals, speakers, and classes. It is highly recommended; however, it is most likely too late for this year's sign ups. The best time to sign up is in Jan, 2024 when it is publicized.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Kurt brought up the possibility of providing a link to the website which will have our newsletter. This is another way for the public to be informed of our activities. After discussion, Vycki moved to include a link to the newsletter, with a week's lag so that members get the information first. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Kurt moved and Kenny seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and we were adjourned at 7:50 PM.

After the door prize drawing (thanks, Dave) and a brief break, members were treated with a presentation. Thanks to the Holdens for providing delicious mini-wraps, cupcakes, chips and bottled water.

**Special Program Addition:** Ellis shared a beautiful art project with mica, amazonite and muscovite that he obtained from the Morefield Mine. The members were impressed with his talent!

**Program:** Bob Farrar presented information about purple apatite he collected at the "mining Camp" in Maine, where new veins of the mineral was found after many years from

the first discovery. The samples he displayed were very impressive.

### **2023 Programs Volunteers are WELCOMED!!**

It is that time of year we begin the search for new briefers / topics for discussion at our monthly gatherings. Topics that amuse, amaze us, teach us, make us re-think, and more are needed outside the "standard" events we have scheduled. I implore the club members - please think/volunteer programs for the club. This includes those ever fantastic snacks and drinks that are brought in. Susan will be estatic if you can assist in ANY WAY for programs or refreshments!!.

### **FACEBOOK Page Is Growing!!**

Kurt is maintaing our ever growing FACEBOOK Page and is looking for pictures of the club members collections and description of where those items were collected. This social media effort is helping share what this club is doing and can help it expand even further.

If you are not "FACEBOOK Friendly" or "Computer Savy", Kurt is happy to assist you in navigating these "internet waters" safely to share your stories.

<b>In the MARCH 2023 ROCK TALK:</b>	
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### **2023 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>
25 APR 2023	<b>Quarry Safety - Rich Simcsak</b>	<b>Paula &amp; Joe</b>
23 MAY 2023	<b>Rock Tumbling Basics - Kenny Jameson</b>	<b>Teresa &amp; Milton</b>
27 JUN 2023	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Ralph G</b>
25 JUL 2023	<b>Geode Cracking - Jim White</b>	<b>Jim W</b>
22 AUG 2023	<b>Annual Auction</b>	<b>Pot Luck (??)</b>
26 SEPT 2023	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
24 OCT 2023	<b>"Remnants of Ancient Life" Dale Greenwalt will discuss his new book, and book signing</b>	<b>TBD</b>
28 NOV 2023	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
TBD DEC 2023	<b>Christmas Party</b>	<b>Pot Luck</b>

Dates are tentative. Changes are possible due to a multitude of reasons that are always beyond our control.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 29, 2023 (Rain date: April 30, 2023) – Cherry Hill, NJ** - 4th Annual South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show. 1721 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08054. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, (Rain date: Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM). For more information visit the website: [www.sjmineralshow.com](http://www.sjmineralshow.com) or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sjmineralshow](https://www.facebook.com/sjmineralshow)

**May 15-21, 2023 Wildacres 2023 Session.** There is now a waiting list.

**May 20-21, 2023 Cape Atlantic Rock Hounds Spring Gem and Mineral Show**, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4, Outdoors, Rain or Shine.. Free to the public. GPS: 2653 Cologne Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Questions: Bob 856-207-1381

**June 3-4, 2023 - Orange County Mineral Society Annual Mineral, Gem, Fossil and Jewelry Show**, June 3- 100 to 1700, June 4 - 1000 to 1600. Museum Village 1010 Route 17M, Monroe

**July 7-9 2023 - EFMLS Annual Convention** in Syracuse, NY hosted by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY.

**July 22-23, 2023 - Lancaster County Fossil and Mineral Club Christmas in July Extravaganza.** Farm and Home Center 1383 Arcadia RD, Lancaster, PA. An extensive array of rocks, minerals, fossils, and jewelry! Enjoy Hot Food, Children's activities, and expert specimen analysis. Great for all ages! Adults \$4.00 ; Seniors (63+) \$3.00; K-12 - \$1.00; Under 5 FREE. Admission

purchased on Saturday is valid both days of the event!

## ODDS AND ENDS

**National Park Service - Fossils and Paleontology** web site

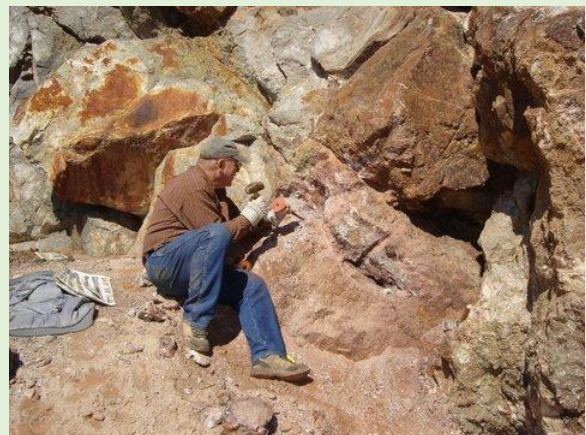
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/fossils/newsletters.htm>

**Rare 'diamond within a diamond' is unearthed in India and is named the 'Beating Heart'**

[https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11978285/Rare-diamond-diamond-unearthed-India-named-Beating-Heart.html?ito=email\\_share\\_article-top](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11978285/Rare-diamond-diamond-unearthed-India-named-Beating-Heart.html?ito=email_share_article-top)

**Huge 38ft T-rex skeleton named 'Trinity' considered one of the most complete of its kind ever found sells at auction for \$6 million**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-11989563/Huge-38ft-T-rex-skeleton-named-Trinity-sells-auction-6-million.html>



## **How to Predict Blowout Tides?**

by Dave Lines

Recently, I sent out a short email to our club members because the tide were very low and great for fossil hunting. The email was titled "Extra low tide NOW happening on Potomac, Patuxent and Bay". The next day, club member Anita emailed me and asked: "Where do you find this kind of info? I can't get there this time, but I'd like to keep an eye out for future very low tides (I get it, weather reports - but is it just a combination of high NW winds in the area and low tides?)"

I responded with the following email.

"Hi Anita, Glad you asked. It is a long answer. I have three (3) websites that I check.

**1<sup>st</sup>**, [forecast.weather.gov](http://forecast.weather.gov) for the National Weather Service weather forecast. This site is very useful for predicting blow-out tides --- especially, the detailed hourly forecast which shows six (6) days of predicted wind velocity and direction (in addition to other info).

**2<sup>nd</sup>**, [saltwatertides.com](http://saltwatertides.com) gives predicted tidal levels everywhere in USA. I go to the "region" and choose either Maryland or Potomac River. From there, you can find the predicted tides for many locations in our area --- for Purse State Park on the Potomac, I find the tide for Liverpool Point. For the Bay (Calvert Cliffs, Matoaka, etc.) and Patuxent River I use the tide at Solomons for a good approximation for those areas.

**3<sup>rd</sup>**, [tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov) for the tidal water level happening right now. It also gives you an idea of which way the water level is trending. Also useful is the meteorological observations – especially the wind speed and direction. This site has fewer reporting locations, so I just estimate for the place that I am going to. If Purse, I will also check nearby reports from Washington DC and Dahlgren VA. If I am going to upper Calvert County on the Bay, I will check Annapolis and Solomons. You can tweak the site info to make it easier to see times with or without Daylight Savings Time.

Just play with each site and get comfortable with how to navigate each for the info you want.

A useful tip is that the predicted low tide at Purse occurs about 4.5 hours later than Solomons. This time difference allows you to select the best location based on the time of the lowest tide for that day.

Also, in general, during the winter the low tides are six (6) to twelve (12) inches lower than in the summer – so I do most of my fossil hunting during the winter and early spring.

Strong NW (northwest) winds are the key to blowout tides. The water is physically blown or pushed southward out of the Bay and our rivers. Two (2) days of NW at 20 mph will almost guarantee extra low tides. NW winds also come with an increase in barometric pressure – this extra atmospheric "weight" on top the water pushes it down – and thus hastens lower water levels.



Hope this helps. Good luck fossil hunting. Hope you find that big meg. Best, Dave”

*A later addendum by the author:*  
"Low tides" are always lower on full and new moons - as well as a day or so on each side. Many (paper) calendars show when the moon is full or new. So, look for predicted strong NW winds on or near a full or new moon. This is your best chance for a "blowout tide" - which is when water levels fall one (1) to two (2) feet - or more - below predicted levels.

**TRUE STORY:** January 1976, the wind blew 50 MPH from the NW for two (2) days and water levels fell four (4) to ten (10) feet below predicted on the whole East Coast. Despite an actual air temperature of Zero (0) Degrees Fahrenheit, my Dad put on his heaviest winter clothing and wrapped towels around his face and walked on bare sand (where the water was usually six (6) feet deep) out on the Patuxent River on the Calvert County side above Broomes Island looking for shark teeth. He found several large teeth. Five (5) Megs to three (3) inches and several Makos over two (2) inches).

*Suggestion if you like to fossil hunt...Cut out this article and put it on your refrigerator door!!*



## WILDACRES 50TH ANNIVERSARY WORKSHOP

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to make that trip to Wildacres this year?

The clock is ticking, marking off the minutes and hours before the EFMLS Workshops' 50<sup>TH</sup> year at Wildacres this May 15-21. There are plenty of spaces to be filled. If you have never been to an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, this May would be an ideal time to find out why so many people rave about the week and return year after year. In addition to the regular activities (classes, lectures by the speaker-in-residence, tailgate, auction, etc.), special activities are being planned to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wildacres workshops. You have to be there to participate in the activities.

The instructors are superb and well-known. Want to know what classes are being offered, who is teaching them, see the following list. Attached is a "Class Schedule" that gives detailed information about each class.

- **Chainmaille—Jim Hird**
- **Faceting—Bernie Emery**
- **Gem Tree Art—Linda Boronczyk**
- **Intarsia—Chuck Bruce**
- **Mineral ID--Mike Wise of the Smithsonian Institute**
- **Silversmithing—Basic and intermediate--Richard Meszler.**
- **Soapstone Carving—Ken Valko**
- **Wire Wrapping—Jacolyn Campbell**

A registration form is attached. We have also added this information on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary session at Wildacres to the EFMLS Website ([www.efmls.org/wildacres](http://www.efmls.org/wildacres)).

The fall Speaker-in-Residence will be Helen Serras-Herman. Helen is a world-known artist who hails from Arizona. She will give a series of lectures that are sure to be interesting, educational and fun. Read her attached bio.

Wildacres is infectious! Wildacres is a relaxing week away from the pressures of daily life and the hustle and bustle of car noise, blaring radios and TV's, etc. The retreat is in the mountains just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, NC. The "noises" you hear on campus are the singing of birds, people laughing and talking, and perhaps the playing a musical instrument along with the hammering or sawing of folks creating wonderful projects in their classes.

The cost for the week is more than reasonable at \$455 per person. Where else can you get room and board, instruction in a class or two of your choice, great food, and a chance to learn from terrific instructors and hear an excellent "Speaker-in-Residence" for that low a cost for a week? Add to that a chance to visit various locations around the beautiful countryside on mid-week Activity Day, enjoy (and bid on) items at an always fun auction, buy or sell at the tailgate, etc.

There is not enough space here to tell you all the great advantages and features of Wildacres. Here is a quick overview:

- See for miles across the Blue Ridges from nature-bounded decks.
- Meet the nicest of people and form many lasting relationships.
- Sleep like a baby amidst towering oaks and pines.
- Reward yourself with super jewelry/cut stones/carvings/classes you make special.
- Have fun.
- Take home to your club and freinds wonderful tales of your special week.

Why procrastinate? Why not fill in the registration form and send it in today? Class sizes are limited, thus students for each class are assigned on a first-come, first-assigned basis. You definitely want to be assigned the class that is your first choice. What are YOU waiting for?

**Registration is now open. Register today!  
If you have any questions or need further  
information, please contact:**

**John Milligan, Registrar**  
([jmilligan@stny.rr.com](mailto:jmilligan@stny.rr.com))

**Mark Kucera, Director**  
([mark\\_j\\_kucera@yahoo.com](mailto:mark_j_kucera@yahoo.com))

***Wildacres Committee, Steve Weinberger,  
Chairman***



## Chestnut Ridge, VA

March 26, 2023 by Dave Lines

This Field Trip was originally planned for Saturday March 25th, but due to rain, it was moved to Sunday March 26th. The 26th turned out to be a good call because the weather was gorgeous --- cool in the morning in the 40's in the valley and warm and sunny in the afternoon in the high 60's on top of the mountain.

We (Rich, Bernie, Mike S., Ray, Orion and I) all initially met in Staunton at the Burger King at 8:00 am and caravanned to the private farm at the foot of Chestnut Ridge where we had been generously given permission to park. I had also secured written (email) permission to collect mineral specimens on the National Forest land where we were headed. We arrived about 9:00 am.



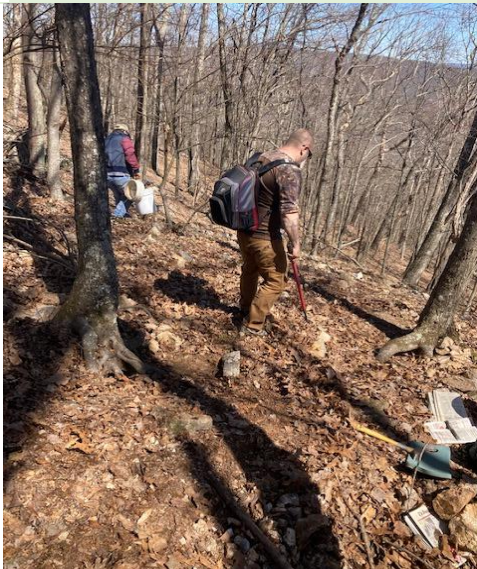
After carefully parking all our vehicles into the limited space available, we changed into our hiking boots and packed our tools, water, and food for the challenging climb to the top. Remember --- we had to hike from about 2,000 feet elevation to about 3,200 feet in about a mile of travel. That figures out to an

average grade of 23%. Of course, there are some flatter areas, but those flat areas just meant the rest of the mountain is steeper to average 23%. I suggested that some should reduce their gear and heavy clothing because they would be too hot. Even though it was only 42 degrees, I only wore a light shirt. I packed my tools in my backpack and carried a set of coveralls in a 5-gallon bucket. After a safety brief about pacing ourselves and not over-doing it on both the hike up as well as back down while following the trail I would mark with bright surveyor's tape --- and some reminders to fill in all our holes and cover them back with old leaves --- we started up the mountain.

Within the first ten minutes, I found myself marking the trail ahead of most of our group which had thinned out to a long line with lots of space between each person. Nevertheless, I was feeling the steepness of the ascent just as much as the rest --- I just tried not to show it. I used to be able to make the hike in under an hour. This time, it took an hour and a half. My shirt was wringing wet. Sweat equity. I took off my wet shirt and hung it on a tree branch to dry and put on my coveralls which were all I needed to wear for the rest of the day. It was already in the upper 50's at the top.

Funny thing about the hike up --- about 10 minutes after you reach the top, you feel great and forget about the climb. Looked around and everything was about the same as when we left it last year. There were many sparkling crystals winking at me from a few bare places in the bright sunshine. The crystals all look fantastic from a few feet away and your first impulse

is a desire to take them all home. But reality is that you can only carry a very limited amount. So, by necessity, you examine every cluster with a very critical eye.



I have learned that most of what I find is less than perfect and, even after brushing away the dirt and clay and carefully examining each piece, I still bring home specimens that I should have left up there. I picked a spot to dig and raked aside the old leaves for later use. Then I started carefully digging with a small shovel and dumping each shovel full into a small wire sifter with half inch mesh.



After sifting, there were quartz crystals in every batch. About 15 minutes after I had reached the top, Ray arrived --- and was immediately amazed at the quantity of quartz crystal singles and plates just laying everywhere. He quickly started making piles of the clusters. And he soon declared he was satisfied and had collected enough. Wow. I would take the next 4 hours to collect a half bucket, but I rejected about 90% of what I found.



The most unusual thing I found was a large black salamander with bright yellow spots. It was about 7 or 8 inches long and very lethargic. I covered it back up with dirt and old moist leaves under a log. Later, I looked it up on Google – it was called a mole salamander, is relatively common and had poisonous skin (at least poisonous to animals that tried to eat it). I had never



seen a salamander anywhere near that large. Very interesting. One of my goals each year is to collect enough quartz crystals to replenish my driveway for kids to find when they visit. Although our farm driveway is made of bank run gravel, the parking area behind our house is covered with washed pea gravel. That is where I put the crystals. Every time someone with kids visits us, we show them how to find the crystals. Yes, it is a bit hokie, but the kids love it and some of them may become rockhounds one day.

Mike S. soon joined us on top. He had taken a different way up (which was much steeper near the end) so he could prospect the various root balls (which were basically dirt piles) where trees had uprooted during storms.

He checked quite a few, but said he had not found any crystals until he reached almost the very top. Good info to remember. When he reached the edge of where the mountain dropped off steeply, he found a large, downed tree with a root ball that was full of single crystals and small clusters. For the most part, the small crystals were perfect and very clear. And some of the clusters had no attached sandstone matrix which made them much more attractive. Mike generously came over and invited us to join him recovering the crystals, but I passed and stayed in my hole. The last person to reach the top was Orion who had taken his time and seemed relatively rested. He asked where to dig and I suggested he look for an area where the ground had not been disturbed. He chose an area close to me and started finding crystals right away. Bernie and Rich

did not join us because they decided to stop at a lower elevation to collect specimens. I did not see what Bernie collected because he left before I did. Rich had some nice singles and small clusters, so he had had good luck.



The weather up top was beautiful. The warm sunshine kept the temperature very pleasant in the high 60's. Everyone found crystals. Probably the best find of the day was found by Mike. It was a large plate weighing about 10 pounds which was covered in mostly clear crystals ranging in size from druzy to one inch long by 3/4 inch diameter. And the individual crystals in the cluster were clean and sharp. Nice job Mike.





Ray and Mike departed the top about 1:30 pm. Orion stayed until about 2:30 pm. And I stayed until about 3:00 pm. Before I left, I checked the areas where everyone had

been collecting and they had filled in all their holes and covered them with old leaves and brush. To the casual observer, the area looked undisturbed. Great job guys. I then began my descent back down the mountain, removing the remaining surveyor's tape as I went. Orion had removed every other one, so my job was easier. Although the downhill trip is faster, the footing becomes more of a challenge since you are tired and are carrying more weight. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  way from the bottom, I caught up with Orion and we hiked the remainder together. Rich was patiently waiting for us in the farmyard and filled us in on when everyone else had departed. We all left around 5 pm and headed back home. It had been a good trip --- everyone found crystals and everyone stayed safe.



#### Access to Past EFMLS Newsletters!!

We've added a protected folder that will keep email spam bots from crawling the newsletters. <https://efmls.org/newsletters/> entry requires only a simple **password: blackopal** You can share this freely by email. It's not high security but will keep out spammers and bots



### The John Wolf Memorial Trip

April 8, 2023

By Bernie Borgnis

On April 8, 2023, I returned to Townsend, Delaware, for another John Wolf Memorial Trip. The weather was much better this time than it was last December. When I arrived, I saw the vegetation was about two feet high and I wondered how I would ever see to the ground. Surprisingly, it was not as difficult as I thought it would be. The field was restricted on this trip in comparison to the one last December. The field to the right side of the driveway was off-limits as was the area behind the old house.

While most everyone was there for petrified wood, there were other finds, as well. One man found an arrowhead that appeared to be in very good condition; and a couple found what I would describe as an artifact. It was a well-defined half-circle concaved rolling pin-length rock.

One of the highlights was meeting Mrs. Wolf. She doesn't walk the field any longer because she would have difficulty with her cane, but she did make an effort to meet everyone that came and to thank them. She also thanked Mr. Ertman for his efforts in continuing this outing eleven years after the death of her husband.

Provided that my work schedule allows, I will return for the Fall outing, partly because I am still learning and there is no better way to practice looking for something than to actually look for it. Also, I want to continue to support the individuals organizing these trips, so they

know they are appreciated, and they continue to plan them.

View from the driveway of the field we were permitted to search



View looking back to the driveway from near the end of the field



There were bare patches scattered throughout the field. While it was easier to see the ground, they were the most searched, so there was less to find in those areas.







My finds in about 3 ½ hours



I like these two pieces the best.



### AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

**Atlantic Micromounters Conference at James Madison University  
3 June 2023 starting at 1030**

For 2023, the Atlantic Micromounters Conference will be different. We will hold the Conference on Saturday, June 3 at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

The conference will start at 10:30 am, so that people from the DC area or similar distances can drive to Harrisonburg on Saturday morning without losing much sleep. There are many inexpensive motels in Harrisonburg if you want to arrive on Friday or stay over on Saturday night.

Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Professor and Curator, will give a talk about the Phil Cosminsky and Fred Keidel micromount collections at 11:00, then we will break for lunch. (We will offer guidance on dining.) In the afternoon we will visit the *stunning* James Madison Museum Mineral Museum (in two groups if necessary), mixed with viewing and trading micromounts till about 3:30. For a preview of the JMU museum, look at the article in the *Mineralogical Record*, volume **51**, page 703, September-October, 2020. There are also some photos and information on the JMU website: <https://www.jmu.edu/mineralmuseum/index.shtml>.

Because of JMU rules, we cannot have dealers or an auction, but we can trade, and there will be giveaways. The attendance will be limited to 50 people. There will be no fee for the conference. Please reply to Michael Pabst if you plan to attend. [michaeljpabst@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeljpabst@yahoo.com)



Rhodochrosite. Sweet Home Mine, Alma, Colorado. FOV 12 cm. JMU specimen. Photo by Michael Pabst



Turquoise. Lynch Station, Virginia. FOV ~10 cm. JMU specimen. Photo by Michael Pabst.



# Berks Mineralogical Society

Presents

**THE**



**ANNUAL**

**"WORLD OF GEMS & MINERALS"**  
**GEMSTONES, JEWELRY, ROCK**  
**MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW**

**May 6 & MAY 7,**  
**2023**

**SAT. 10 - 5 SUN. 10 - 4**

**Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall**

**312 Gemant's Church Rd. Leesport, PA 19533**

**Admission Donation \$ 4.00**

**MINERAL DISPLAYS**  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**EDUCATIONAL!**

**GREAT FOR KIDS!**  
**THE BEST SHOW IN BERKS**  
**COUNTY!**

For more info, visit [berksmineralsociety.com](http://berksmineralsociety.com)



**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)

<b>SMRMC OFFICERS</b>	
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Joe Davis	
<b>Programs / Vice President</b> Susan Knower	<b>Membership / Vice President</b> Vycki Borgnis
<b>Secretary</b> Teresa Jones	<b>Webmaster</b> Bob Davidson
<b>Field Trip Chairman</b> David Lines	<b>Treasurer</b> Greta G
<b>Rock Talk Editor</b> Rich Simcsak	<b>FACEBOOK Coordinator</b> Kurt Knower

**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

