



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

JUNE 2023

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

JUNE PROGRAM GOLD PANNING with John Sorg

John has been a recreational gold prospector for over 30 years. He has found gold in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Most of what he has found has been from the creeks and rivers of Central Virginia. He uses a motorized dredge and a high banker but most often he prefers to use a shovel, sluice and a gold pan to prospect. He will bring gold panning equipment and sand and gravel from a stream that contains gold so people can pan for gold.

Promises to be an extremely fun and educational program!!

IN THIS EDITION

- Show Listings and News Articles
- HK PENN Trip Reports (2)
- Word Search
- SMRMC Show Flyer

MAY 2023 MINUTES

SMRMC 23 MAY 2023 MINUTES
Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD

May Minutes are submitted by Teresa. Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Vice President Vycki, in the absence of Joe.

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: Attending: 34. We had six (6) new members/visitors in attendance.

SECRETARY: Kurt moved to accept the minutes and Rich seconded. Motion passed. Many thanks to Sue Knower for taking the minutes in Teresa's absence.

MEMBERSHIP: Currently, 113 Adult members and 18 Junior members. 35 members are up for renewal in June or July. Please submit as soon as possible.

FACEBOOK Posts/Members: 294. Kurt encouraged folks to join the Facebook. Educational postings are of interest.

PROGRAMS: Susan reminded everyone that the August Meeting will be the Annual

Potluck and Auction meeting. We still have two (2) months open: September and November.

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 that there 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 TRIPS: Dave

Recent Past Field Trips: April 29, Madison County, Va. – unakite, blue quartz, metabasalt at the Robinson and Rose Rivers on private land (permission received) 25 initially signed up: 9 cancelled, 16 attended.

Upcoming Field Trips:
May 27, HK Penn, MD at Peach Bottom, PA for green-colored serpentine minerals: picrolite, antigorite, williamsite, Mcginnesite, lapidary grade serpentine. Joint trip with Montgomery County Club. 15 person limit. 16 signed up. It was a full trip.

June 10, “Go on Your Own” Multi-club Jamboree at the Sterling Hill Mine, NJ from 10:00 A.M. until mid-afternoon. Fluorescent rocks to find on dumps for \$2 per pound (5-pound suggested limit). Bring your UV lights. Underground mine Tour available. Please respond to dianatasco@yahoo.com. RSVPs required.

June 10, US Silica Quarry at Montpelier, VA. Andesine (silvery-gray flash moonstone), enstatite (bronzesite), white flash moonstone, massive rutile, massive ilmenite, almandine garnets (most are highly weathered) and up to 2+ inches in diameter quartz. Time: 7:30 to 12:00 noon. 15 person limit (9 signed up so far).

Other Club Rock Trips to consider

(Recommend joining Lynchburg, VA club (lynchburgrockclub.org.) because they are starting to do trips again plus they also belong to the Southeast Federation and the DMC (Dixie Mineral Council) that conducts 12 trips every year all over the southeast USA. (This greatly expands your opportunities).

June 16-17, Lynchburg Club: three (3) day trip for fossils and possibly quartz geodes.

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 (2) day event Fri. night, Oct. 6 will be for set-up and the show will be Sat., Oct. 7 9 am-4 pm. Tables are going fast: Already 39 out of 45 available tables are paid. A copy of the jobs needing to be filled was sent out...only response except one.

Please review the task list and sign up. Remember, the success factors for the show depends on participation.

NEW BUSINESS:

The *Bylaws revisions* are on hold for now.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made 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 refreshments. Thanks to the Jones for providing mini sandwiches, cupcakes, chips, mini-sodas and bottled water.

Program: Kenny Jameson presented an interesting program on the correct way to polish rocks in a tumbler. He also distributed "Kenny's Tumbling Recipe" for successful tumbling to produce brilliant, polished finished rocks.

Next Month: John will present a program entitled "Panning for Gold."

Ralph G will provide refreshments for the June meeting.

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.



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2023 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
27 JUN 2023	Panning for GOLD! - John Sorg	Ralph G
25 JUL 2023	Geode Cracking - Jim White	Jim W
22 AUG 2023	Annual Auction	Pot Luck
26 SEPT 2023	TBD	Kurt & Sue
24 OCT 2023	"Remnants of Ancient Life" Dale Greenwalt will discuss his new book, and book signing	Jill & Lorna
28 NOV 2023	TBD	Carole, Al & Polly
TBD DEC 2023	Christmas Party	Pot Luck

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

July 15 – 16, 2023 - Erie, PA - Gem City Rock & Mineral Show & Sale. Zem Zem Shrine Temple, 2525 West 38th, Erie, PA 16506. Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information visit:
<http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/>

July 22 + July 23 @ 42nd Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Champlain Valley Exposition 105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction, VT. Theme: "From Rocks to Gemstones" Quality dealers offering minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, lapidary equipment and supplies, and books; demonstrations, exhibits, a fish pond for kids, fossil and mineral identification, hourly door prizes, raffle, and silent auctions. Refreshments available • Free parking Admission: Adults \$4 Seniors 60 and over \$3 Kids under 16 FREE with paying adult.

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!

July 23, 2023 - The Monongahela Rockhounds Gem Mineral Fossil Show. West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co, #4 Skyview

Hall, 660 Noble Drive, Pittsburgh, PA.
Saturday, July 22, 2023, 10 am to 6 pm
Sunday, July 23, 2023, 10 am to 4 pm West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co., #4 Skyview Hall, 660 Noble Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15122
Admission is FREE
See <https://www.monongahelarockhounds.org> for more information
Contact: [Show@monongahelarockhounds.org](mailto>Show@monongahelarockhounds.org)

August 18-20, 2023 – Lebanon, PA - Gem Miner's Jubilee Gem & Jewelry Show, Lebanon Valley Fairgrounds and Expo, 80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon, PA 17042. Friday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information visit:
<https://www.gem-show.com/>

September 9, 2023 - Mont Clare, PA - Fall Outdoor Mineral Treasures. Picnic Grove at St Michael's Byzantine Church, 400 Jacobs Street, Mont Clare, PA. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information visit:
<http://www.phillyrocks.org/>

October 7, 2023 - Southern Maryland Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Old Waldorf School, 3074 Crain Highway (RT 301), Waldorf, MD 2061. Admission Donation: Adults: \$5.00; Seniors (65+) \$4.00; Juniors (13-17) \$3.00; 12 and under FREE with paying Adult. Free Rocks for all Kids. Free Door Prizes every 30 Minutes. .
Vendor applications or Questions: Contact Dave Lines thru the WEBSITE for further information SMRMC.ORG

October 28, 2023 – Fairless Hills, PA – ULTRAVIOLATION 2023 – All Fluorescent Mineral Show. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030. Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For

more information contact Lee McIlvaine
215-713-8020 or email:
www.uvgeologist@yahoo.com
***Editors opinion: One of the best fluorescent
shows one can attend!!***

ODDS AND ENDS

**Huge 55.22-carat ruby that's largest EVER
auctioned is sold at Sotheby's for \$34.8M,
less than a year after it was mined in
Mozambique**

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12182139/Huge-55-22-carat-ruby-thats-largest-auctioned-sold-Sothebys-34-8M.html?ito=email_share_article-top

**Esmeralda, Nevada's least populated
county, braces for industrial boom from
lithium mining**

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/local/2023/05/16/nevada-esmeralda-county-industrial-boom-lithium-mining/70223273007/>

**'Peaceful protest' staged at Thacker Pass to
halt construction of lithium mine**

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2023/05/12/peaceful-protest-staged-at-thacker-pass-to-halt-construction-of-lithium-mine/70209492007/>

**Biden administration clarifies 1872 Mining
Law; says huge Nevada lithium mine can
proceed**

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2023/05/16/biden-administration-clarifies-1872->

[mining-law-says-huge-nevada-lithium-mine-can-proceed/70225800007/](https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2023/05/16/mining-law-says-huge-nevada-lithium-mine-can-proceed/70225800007/)

Nevada mines test boundaries of 150-year-old law

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2023/06/12/nevada-mines-test-boundaries-of-150-year-old-law/70314015007/>

**Earth's tilt has changed by 31 INCHES
thanks to humans – and it could make
climate change even WORSE, study warns**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12209737/Earths-tilt-changed-31-5-INCHES-thanks-humans.html>

**The Titanic gives up its forgotten treasures:
Lost gold necklace made from the tooth of
a megalodon shark is discovered in the
shipwreck - 110 years after the doomed
liner sank**

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12138597/Titanic-remains-reveal-lost-gold-necklace-tooth-megalodon.html?ito=email_share_article-top

**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

Worthwhile second trip to HK Penn Quarry

by Bernie Borgnis

This was my second trip to Haines & Kibblehouse Penn Maryland Materials Quarry (HK-Penn), and it was just as rewarding as my first. I was initially expecting to upgrade the items in my collection. However, I thought that this was going to be a difficult task. Some of the items that I collected on my first trip are very nice, in my opinion, and I cannot imagine finding something to replace them.

The weather was great the entire day. If anything, a little cloud cover would have been welcomed. The day's surprises began when Rich asked about a Mason-Dixon Line marker that is on the property. The quarry supervisor took us to see the marker since it was on the way down into the quarry. As someone who has always had an interest in history, I found it very interesting to see.

The drive into the quarry was dusty. I stayed far enough back to allow the dust to somewhat settle so that I can see the road to avoid the ruts and obstacles that might be present. There was enough of a cloud of dust that it would have been impossible to lose them.



Once everyone was safely at the bottom, we all scattered to look for our desired pieces. The sounds of people moving rocks, rocks being dropped into plastic buckets, and hammers hitting chisels are all relaxing under these circumstances. Everyone seems to have collected their fill.

As expected, the few items I had from my previous trip that I thought would be difficult to replace are still in my collection. However, I was able to replace quite a bit with what I think are nicer/larger pieces. And, of course, then there are the others. The new items are now part of my expanding collection. And I think these will be difficult to replace in the future.



My homework is still ongoing. Dave mentioned that williamsite and serpentine will be on the site. He had also previously mentioned mcguinnessite, picrolite, and antigorite. Now, how to distinguish these from each other along with marmolite, chrysotile, nakaurite and the other 30 some odd minerals?

That is the third and final enjoyable portion of these trips – first the collecting and interacting others doing the same; second cleaning and sorting your finds

getting excited when the cleaning reveals more than what you imagined; and third educating yourself. Maybe after enough of these trips and enough research afterwards I'll finally know what I am looking at. Until then, I'll keep collecting and studying.



**An Original Mason Dixon Line
Marker and Chromite Minerals in HK
Penn MD Quarry, Peachbottom,
PA by Dave Lines**

There are not many rockhounding field trips which combine a history lesson with mineral collecting. This was one of them. Our group consisted of members from two Maryland rock clubs --- twelve (Rich, John S., Michelle and Jim K., Tim and Lorna S., Joyce and Pam. John M., Bernie, Renee, and Dave) from the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club plus another six from the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County. We all arrived between 7:30 and 8:00 am, signed the quarry waivers, posed for a group picture, and listened to the safety briefing by the Quarry Supervisor.



At the end of the safety briefing, Rich asked about the status of the Mason Dixon Line marker which is located on the quarry property. The quarry straddles the Mason Dixon Line --- which is the official boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania. One of the original Mason Dixon rock markers, which were placed every mile apart, is on this mine property. On our 2021 trip here --- we all drove right by it when we caravanned into the mine. At that time, it was protected by a vertical section of corrugated culvert pipe which was painted bright yellow. Now -- a year and a half later --- they have almost completed the paperwork and received most of the various permissions to move the rock marker to mine under it. The

marker will be donated to a historical group and displayed in a museum. The Quarry Supervisor said the marker was now uncovered and in the open. He said it is six (6) feet long and buried except for about a foot above ground level. It had an “M” on one side and a “P” on the other. He offered to stop there and show us on the way into the quarry. Cool.



So, when our caravan of vehicles eventually headed into the quarry, we all parked near the top of the quarry and got out of our vehicles to view the marker. I removed my hard hat and put it next to the marker for a size comparison in the many photos that were taken. (In retrospect that was a bad idea because I had removed my hard hat in the quarry – not good – especially with multiple cameras to record my mistake. 📷 Lesson learned.) Anyway, seeing the Mason Dixon Line marker was neat.



We returned to our vehicles and followed the quarry supervisor down into the quarry – all driving on the left side of the road. Question: Why did we do this --- i.e., drive on the left side of the road in this quarry? (*see answer below)

There had been significant changes in the mine since our last visit. The lowest level (5) was still underwater. Level 4 was very small and looked to be where further expansion would take place. We were led to Level 3 which was large (at several acres) and spread out. All the berms were in good shape. Level 2 was closed off. We parked around the perimeter of level 3 and began our search for specimens. Since there had been no rain in several weeks, everything was covered in dust and colors were difficult to determine. My first adjustment was to put some water in an empty bucket and bring along a scrub brush so I could clean off likely looking rocks. This paid off and saved me from bringing home a lot of junk. Several others did the same with various methods including sprayers.

Anyway, we spread out and spent the rest of the morning searching for specimens likely to be found in this quarry which is in the “State Line Chromite Mining District”. A check online of MINDAT.ORG for this quarry shows 15 valid minerals. The

common thread in most of the rocks here is the color "green". Serpentine is the rock they quarry and crush for road gravel. The massive serpentine here is very good for lapidary projects and some variants of it are translucent and even transparent green. My favorite green specimens are antigorite and picrolite. Both can be very pretty when found in their purer form. A flashlight will shine through both. Picrolite is very columnar in appearance and makes very attractive specimens. Most of the picrolite here is opaque. Another variation of green is lizardite which generally is a yellowish green and opaque. Chromite tends to be black specks inside specimens of antigorite.

There are other more unusual minerals (not necessarily green) such are brucite which is a micaeous (flaky, mica like) mineral. Another is magnesite ---- a relatively soft whitish mineral somewhat like chalk. A closely related mineral is hydromagnesite which is an ivory-colored mineral usually with botryoidal formations on the surface. Mcginnessite is a very rare mineral elsewhere but can be found in this quarry consistently. The bright turquoise color is easily seen as a surface coating on rocks. Quartz is uncommon but tiny crystals and massive quartz are found regularly.



During my walk around Level 3 of the quarry, I saw that our group had collected all the above minerals. Overall, many specimens of excellent material were collected and saved from the crusher. At 11:45 am, we all headed back up and out of the quarry. Another great trip.

*Answer = Fully loaded rock trucks are very heavy (100 tons or more) and are usually leaving the pit going up the haul road. Assuming a clockwise haul road going up and out, if a fully loaded rock truck loses its brakes or its engine stops running, the emergency procedure is to back into the berm on the highwall side of the road. Even if the berm doesn't stop the loaded truck, the highwall will. Thus, all loaded rock trucks will stay closest to the highwall side of the haul road. In this quarry, that means that loaded trucks always drive on the left side of the haul road, so they are always closest to the highwall in case of an emergency. Conversely, an empty rock truck drives down into the quarry on the left side of the haul road because the berm on the side closest to the pit should be strong enough to stop an empty truck.

MINERALS THAT CAN BE FOUND IN OHIO

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

Below are 24 of a possible 36 minerals currently that can be found in Ohio.
Information was found at the Ohio DNR webpage.

APATITE
 ARAGONITE
 BARITE
 CALCITE
 CHALCOPYRITE
 DIADOCHITE
 FLINT
 FLOURITE
 GALENA
 GOLD
 HALITE
 HEMATITE
 MALACHITE

MANGANESE OXIDE
 MARCASITE
 MILLERITE
 PYRITE
 QUARTZ
 ROZENITE
 SALAMMONIAC
 SPHALERITE
 SULFUR
 SZOMOLNOKITE
 VIVIANITE
 WURTZITE

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND
ROCK, MINERAL, AND FOSSIL SHOW
SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2023**

9 am to 4 pm

OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

3074 CRAIN HIGHWAY (Rt 301), WALDORF MD 20601

(next to JayCees Hall)

**ADMISSION DONATION: ADULTS \$5.00, SENIORS (65+) \$4.00,
JUNIORS (13-17) \$3.00, 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT**

FREE rocks for all Kids. FREE Door prizes every 30 minutes.



**THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING
LOTS OF UNIQUE GIFTS
OVER 45 TABLES
*ROCKS *CRYSTALS *FOSSILS
*HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY
*LAPIDARY *MINERALS
*FLUORESCENT TENT *DISPLAYS**

SPONSORED BY SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB

WEBSITE: WWW.SMRMC.ORG

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

VENDOR APPLICATIONS OR QUESTIONS?

CONTACT DAVE LINES THRU WEBSITE: SMRMC.org



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

