



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

JULY 2023

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

JULY PROGRAM GEODE CRACKING with Jim White

Jim will be bringing his "Geode Splitter" tool to this meeting and will split geodes that members have had that have not had the tools or time to split them. Bring those geodes in for some "oos and ahs" once they are cracked open.

IN THIS EDITION

US Silica Trip Report
China Fossil Find
EFMLS Letter
SMRMC Show Flyer

JUNE 2023 MINUTES

SMRMC 27 JUNE 2023 MINUTES
Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD

President Joe called the meeting to order. He noted that due to having a lot going on right now he was taking a temporary leave of absence from his position. The VPs (Sue and Vycki) will lead the meetings over the next several months.

Secretary (Teresa, not present) – May meeting minutes were in the June Rock Talk. Sue volunteered to take notes for this meeting.

Treasurer (Greta) – was accomplished via in absentia.

Membership (Vycki, not present) – any new membership forms give to Sue and she will get them to Vycki

Facebook (Kurt) – 317 Facebook group members

Editor (Rich) – Rock Talk went out, requested any feedback/input/suggestions for articles. If members did not receive the Rock Talk, make sure Rich has your current email address.

Programs (Sue) – Still have three (3) openings (Sept, Oct, Nov). August meeting is the silent auction, it was decided to not do a potluck at that meeting so members can focus on their silent auction items. Sue and Kurt will do August refreshments. Discussion about Silent Auction – Ralph has the form and instructions and will send it to Sue and

Rich to send out to the members ahead of time.

Field Trips (Dave) – Dave reviewed the recent field trips. Due to lack of participation the trip to Harry and Tina’s farm near York PA on June 24 had to be cancelled. May be rescheduled for September – Dave passed around a sheet for signups, would like to get 25. Next trip is July 22nd to Contrary Creek in Mineral, VA.

At this point the meeting wrapped up quickly so that we could start the program as a storm was quickly approaching. Refreshments provided by Ralph and door prizes provided by Dave.

Program:

John Sorg gave a very interesting talk about panning for gold in the Maryland/Virginia area and had some samples of gold and other rocks found when panning for members to see, as well as some of the equipment used. It poured rain outside while he was talking, and stopped just as he finished so members could move out onto the porch where John had set up stations for us to try. He brought baggies of the material you likely would encounter when panning, and each was “seeded” with a chip of gold and a garnet. He demo’d the techniques to use and several tried it. One of our newest members, Karen, was the first to find her gold chip! Many thanks to John for bringing all of the equipment and supplies for the club to learn

and e



“Status and Update of the 27th Annual Southern Maryland Rock Mineral and Fossil Show” from Dave Lines, Show Chairman:

The show will be held on Saturday October 7, 2023, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Old Waldorf School, 3074 Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD 20601. Current vendor status: We are almost sold out --- **41 of our 45 tables have been paid for** plus 2 other tables have been promised to a NC vendor who participated last year and has mailed his vendor application and payment.

Dave needs every member's (your) help advertising the show --- posting Show flyers online in every online venue such as Facebook, Twitter, Linked-in, as well as listing our show on various rock related websites such as The Vug.com, Mindat, mineralevents.com (email show info to mineralfest@aol.com). Also, we need you to advertise the show through other venues such as CraigsList. **Maximum free advertising via the internet is the KEY TO SUCCESS.**

Please post interesting pics/videos of your rocks and recent finds on social media -- - and mention our upcoming show date of Oct 7th. Also mention our club website SMRMC.org and our Facebook page. Print copies of the show flyer and put a copy in your favorite stores, your barbershop and hair salon. Mention to your friends and family that the show will be on Oct 7th from 9 to 4 in Waldorf. Write a letter to the Editor of your local publications and tell them about our show. Tell the folks at your other organization meetings about our show and why they should attend. Tell those at work, at your church and at your nearby senior center. Do all the above – repeatedly. Thank you.”

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
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 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

Scientists warn Africa is splitting in TWO: 2,000-mile crack that appeared along south-east of the continent is widening by one inch every year

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12267587/Could-Africa-split-HALF-2-000-mile-crack-widening-one-inch-year.html>

From last month's outstanding Gold Panning demonstration, here are a few videos of other Gold Panning efforts!

Glacial Till Gold Everywhere in Maryland!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgWe46ZguNA>

Maryland: A Gold Mining State You Should Consider

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlRgfafO78>

Maryland Mine, The Old Abandoned Gold Mine Ruins!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBH_0DH9QOQ

VA

Hunting Virginia Ounce Nuggets Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRdI5jVnVIM>

Hunting Virginia Ounce Nuggets: Part II

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f1AcINMjZM>

Hunting Virginia Ounce Nuggets: Part III

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw9YMIlINa4>

Hunting Virginia Ounce Nuggets: Part IV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pASNkfJvBE>

Uncovering a Hidden Gem: Prospecting a Virgin Placer Deposit in Virginia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmch1ozRXpw>

Virginia Gold Nuggets!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKnqQnH7bZM>

Equinox Finds Gold Nuggets!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjGDoG-cW5Y>

Gold Prospecting - Pennsylvania Creek - Tons of Quartz and Blacksand - 1/8" Classifier - PA Gold

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZmjFo_iRJw

10 Pennsylvania Creeks that have GOLD!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQf2xKp-800>

10 more Pennsylvania creeks where you can find GOLD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hvb9uHxlsCg>

A paleontologist recently discovered a 4-foot-long mammoth tusk while on a quarry dig. The rare find is thought to be 450,000 years old. "I could not believe my eyes," said Jamie Jordan.

<https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/fossil-find-paleontologist-spots-450000-year-old-mammoth-tusk-quarry-sore-thumb>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12314849/A-mammoth-discovery-Fossil-hunters-discover-450-000-year-old-tusk-quarry-Cambridgeshire.html>

Trip Report to US Silica Mine, Montepelier, VA on June 10, 2023 by Dave Lines

We met at 7:30 am in the gravel parking lot in front of the office. There were 13 of us (Allison, Ann and Greg, Bernie, Casey, Dave, Ralph G., Renee, Rich, Sam, Tim and Lorna S., and Tom Z.) from the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club. Since Rich and I were about 20 minutes early and since there were several new folks, I spent the time while everyone was arriving, showing them sample specimens of what we had found there in the past. Hopefully, we would collect similar material again this day. After the Safety brief by the Mine Superintendent, we presented him with various rocks and minerals from this quarry --- some like bronzesite (enstatite) and andesine (gray flash moonstone) had been polished to bring out their internal flashes.



One gift to the mine was a 2-1/2 inch diameter polished sphere of andesine that had an excellent silver flash when turned over in the sunlight.



After a group picture at 7:45 am, we followed the mine sup in a caravan of vehicles into the large open pit mine. The weather was beautiful and about 70 degrees. We went first to the area where we could find andesine and bronzesite. We were not disappointed --- gray flash moonstone was still plentiful and beautiful. In addition, we found massive ilmenite (FeO Ti O_2 – iron titanium dioxide). It was black in color and very heavy ---- almost double the weight of a similar volume of quartz. We also found massive rutile (TiO_2 – titanium dioxide) associated with quartz and feldspar. Blue quartz was also embedded in some of the gray andesine.



After a full 1-1/2 hours at this location, the mine sup moved us up a level to the bench immediately above. Although fairly narrow, the bench contained larger quantities of bronzesite and ilmenite, so the collecting was easy and fast. After 30 minutes here, we moved again --- this time to a location on the other side of the mine -- to search primarily for large, weathered almandine garnets. We had various degrees of success. The better garnet specimens were found in a black, biotite schist, while the largest ones were highly weathered and could be found loose in the dirt. Several of our new members were very happy to find all the garnets --- especially Ann and Greg.



Around 11:00 am, we moved across the mine again to search for rutile and

ilmenite, but we had very limited success finding anything of interest at that location. At 11:30 am, we all followed the quarry sup back out of the mine to the office. There we compared our finds and wished each other a safe trip home.



Scientist takes museum's fossils on the road

https://www.somdnews.com/enterprise/news/local/scientist-takes-museums-fossils-on-the-road/article_49c9fbac-f9ed-56ea-a8ec-158c9c23535c.html

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12310507/David-Goliath-Incredible-fossil-reveals-dinosaur-locked-fight-death-tiny-badger-like-mammal-125-million-years-ago.html>

David and Goliath! Incredible fossil reveals a dinosaur locked in a fight to the death with a tiny badger-like mammal 125 million years ago

Incredible fossil found of a dinosaur and badger-like mammal locked in a fight
It's among first evidence to show mammals attacked dinosaurs bigger than them

By [XANTHA LEATHAM DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)

UPDATED: 11:00 EDT, 18 July 2023

An incredible fossil of a dinosaur and badger-like mammal locked in an eternal fight to the death has been revealed by scientists.

The 125 million-year-old fossil captures the dramatic moment in time when a carnivorous mammal attacked a large plant-eating dinosaur.

It is among the first evidence to show mammals attacked dinosaurs bigger than them, rather than just targeting their young.

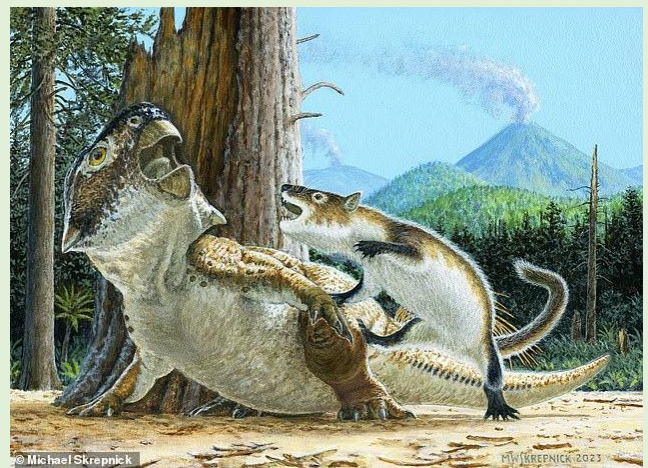
The dinosaur in the well-preserved fossil is a species of *Psittacosaurus*, which was about the size of a large dog and whose name translates to 'parrot lizard'.

Meanwhile the mammal in the fossil pair is a badger-like animal, called *Repenomamus robustus*.



© GANG HAN

An incredible fossil of a dinosaur and badger-like mammal locked in an eternal fight to the death has been revealed by scientists



The 125 million-year-old fossil captures the dramatic moment in time when a carnivorous mammal attacked a large plant-eating dinosaur

Although not large by dinosaur standards, it was among the biggest mammals during the Cretaceous period, at a time when mammals had not yet come to dominate the Earth.

The fossil was collected in China's Liaoning Province, and both skeletons are nearly complete.

A close look shows the mammal sitting atop its prey, gripping the jaws of the larger dinosaur.

It can also be seen biting into the dinosaur's ribs, while using its back feet to grip onto the dinosaur's hind leg.

It is thought the pair may have become buried suddenly by mudslides and debris following a volcanic eruption.

Dr Jordan Mallon, co-author of the study from the Canadian Museum of Nature, said: 'The two animals are locked in mortal combat, intimately intertwined, and it's among the first evidence to show actual predatory behaviour by a mammal on a dinosaur.'

'The co-existence of these two animals is not new, but what's new to science through this amazing fossil is the predatory behaviour it shows.'

'The weight of the evidence suggests that an active attack was underway.'

The findings were published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.



© Michael Skrepnick

The dinosaur in the well-preserved fossil is a species of *Psittacosaurus*, which was about the size of a large dog and whose name translates to 'parrot lizard'. Meanwhile the mammal in the fossil pair is a badger-like animal, called *Repenomamus robustus*



© GANG HAN

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Eastern Federation
of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.
Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.



Ms. Noelle Glines-Bovio
 Monument Manager
 Mojave Trails National Monument Planning
 C/O Needles Field Office, 1303
 S.U.S. Hwy 95,
 Needles, CA 92363

Re: Mojave Trails National Monument MTNM-Plan
 EFMLS Opposes proposed closure of MTNM to Rockhounding

Dear Ms. Glines-Bovio:

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. (EFMLS) was organized 1950 as a non-profit to bring about a closer association of mineral societies devoted to the study of geology, minerals, earth sciences and the practice of the lapidary arts and related crafts. The EFMLS is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the umbrella organization of the seven regional federations in the United States. The EFMLS joined the AFMS in 1952.

The EFMLS currently has nearly 9,300 members with 957 junior members comprising 93 clubs from West Palm Beach Florida to Northern Maine and west to West Virginia, Alabama, and eastern Kentucky. Many of our members including all the Friends of Mineralogy Chapters in the region have experts who provide expert mineral identification, learning through symposia and other support to our amateur collectors. The EFMLS provides group insurance to most of our member organizations. We provide advertising via our website for our clubs with a map feature page, a shows and events page as well as through our newsletter and Facebook page. Members can register for Wild Acres, a week-long educational conference where attendees learn lapidary arts and other activities. Each year the EFMLS holds an annual meeting and convention at which Federation business is conducted, member organizations host an Editor's Breakfast for newsletter editors/awards and an evening awards banquet where awards for articles, rockhound of the year, Each One Teach One, and other recognition for service awards are given, and a guest speaker gives a presentation. The convention is always hosted by a member organization, this year in Syracuse New York.

Learn more about the EFMLS by visiting our website at efmls.org.

Why would the EFMLS be interested in what happens in Southern California? First the proposed closure is being imposed by a Federal Agency on Federal Lands, which makes it an issue of national interest to tens of thousands of Americans in our stakeholders' community at large. As part of a larger national organization and with affiliates with direct interest in the region, and with experience with government over-reach through the National Monument proposals of past administrations in our own backyard (i.e., the proposed expansion of the Mallows Bay Area on the Potomac River), we have a keen interest in what the Federal government is doing to further curtail our access to public lands. The Mallows Bay expanded National Monument closure for example would have affected thousands of school children collecting fossil shark teeth on beaches on the Potomac, oystermen access to their oyster grounds, their livelihoods and much more. That proposal was absurd on its face.

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Second, the EFMLS has members that make the trek to Tucson and Quartzsite for the shows and collecting in the area including southern California, and some have retired to western Arizona and collect throughout the region including MTNM. We advocate on behalf of Rockhounds in all parts of the US.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, closure of government-owned lands to rockhounds is diametrically opposed to the objectives of our organization, and that is not limited to MTNM.

We cannot stress the importance of maintaining access to public lands for “Rockhounding”, which includes field collecting and prospecting for rocks, minerals, fossils and the like. We are aware that new discoveries have occurred in areas within the MTNM, and continual reasonably unrestricted access is essential for research and academic reasons, with finds from recreational rockhounding contributing to important knowledge of minerals and other resources in the region. Closure would continue to put pressure on this recreational activity, the hobby, and all the educational benefits and academic knowledge that comes with rockhounding.

The Regional Federations and the AFMS all have Codes of Ethics that prohibit certain activities that would be harmful, would be considered mining that would require a permit, or otherwise significantly damage our resources and heritage. New members of our organizations are typically required to sign documents accepting our safety, access and behavior rules for field collecting. Training and education are a fundamental pillar of our mission(s) and our Charters as non-profit organizations.

I am available to discuss our mission and position if you wish. As President of the EFMLS, President of the FM PA Chapter and President of my own environmental consulting corporation for nearly 28 years with direct NEPA EA preparation experience, I would be pleased to explain further why a policy of closure to rockhounding is in fact far more detrimental than beneficial as a policy for managing activities in the MTNM.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Feel free to reach out any time.

Sincerely,
Bill Stephens, PG, President EFMLS 2022-2023



**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

