



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

AUGUST 2023

22 AUGUST 2023 at 1800 (6 PM)
Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL
(next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)
North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

AUGUST PROGRAM CLUB AUCTION

Annual Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club Rock Auction

At our upcoming *August Meeting starting at 6:00 pm on Tuesday Aug 22*. All are invited, including non-members. **Winning bidders must pay by cash only.** Great deals on minerals, fossils, lapidary items (rough rock and finished), and handcrafted jewelry. Something for everyone. Super gifts for yourself and others.

For those bringing auctionable material, please use the form sent out last month to help expedite the actions of the auction record keepers.

IN THIS EDITION

Contrary Creek Trips
"Meet the Flint Stones"
Spreading the Word about the Rock Show
SMRMC Show Flyer

JULY 2023 MINUTES

SMRMC 25 July 2023 MINUTES
Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD

June Minutes submitted by Teresa as taken by Sue (in Teresa's absence). Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Sue, VP for Programs.

Membership (Vycki): We have 122 members as of this date; 19 are junior members. New member: Patricia Vazquez.

There are still a few July renewals pending payment. August renewal notices went out last week.

I will not be at the August or September meetings. We will advise who will be accepting applications and membership payments closer to each of those meeting dates.

Facebook posts/members Kurt): We have 343 'members' on FB.

Newsletter: Rich is open for topics and ideas. Please send articles of interest to Rich. He emphasized that he needs the program information for future editions.

SECRETARY: June Minutes were approved. Alton is taking notes in Teresa's absence.

TREASURER: Greta presented the monthly report. She will be out of town for 2 weeks.

PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS: Sue reported that Oct. and Nov. Programs are needed and refreshments are needed for Oct. Sue and Kurt will provide refreshments for the Aug. 22, which is the annual Members' Auction. We will move the auction out into the event room for the auction.

FIELD TRIPS REPORT (Dave):

Recent Past Field Trips: July 22 – Mineral, Va.- Gold panning, dodecahedron almandine garnets, pyrite xls and massive, magnetite xls and massive, actinolite. 11 signed up, 2 cancelled, 9 attended. (Dave found a gold fleck!)

Upcoming Field Trips: Aug. 5 – Mineral, Va. We are going to Contrary Creek again so more folks can participate. It is still plenty warm in August for getting wet in the creek and great specimens await. Fun location for kids (if supervised). Nice garnets can be found by everyone with some effort.

Sept. 16 – Special trip to visit Harry/Tina's place near York, PA. – Combo hunt for devil's dice, cookout/potluck, swap/sell, treasure hunt (of H and T's extra minerals). 9:30 am to 4 pm. Hope for 25+ attendees – especially new members. Previous June trip was canceled due to too few people signing up.

OLD BUSINESS

The Rock Show announcement was in newsletter. It is Oct. 7. Dave has flyers to pass around for placement in public areas such as barbershops, salons, etc.

Dave reminded everyone of the Oct. 7 Rock Show we are hosting and asked for everyone's help in publicizing our event.

Kurt needs a PDF copy of the Rock Show Flyer. Please send pictures of sample sale items and also pictures of door prizes so Kurt can add them to our Facebook page.

Karen Lynch asked if we use Twitter, Craig's Lists or Instagram for publishing information.

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

After the door prize drawing (thanks, Dave) and a brief break, Jim White presented a fascinating program on geode cracking, which he also demonstrated. Members were able to have hands-on practice.

Thanks to Ralph for providing tonight's refreshments.



IN THE AUGUST 2023 ROCK TALK:	
TOPICS	PAGE
Minutes	1
Table of Contents	3
Programs / Refreshments	3
Calendar of Events /Odds and Ends	4
Contrary Creek, Mineral, VA ---Gold, Garnets, Magnetite and Pyrite	8
A Second Visit to Contrary Creek	10
Spreading the Word about our Rock Show	13
Meet the Flint Stones	14
Physical Properties of Minerals Word Search	16
SMRMC Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Show Flyer	17
SMRMC Staff	18
Items Wanted/For Sale	18

2023 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
22 AUG 2023	Annual Auction	Kurt & Sue
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.

“Reminder to sign up for the **“Special Field Trip to Harry and Tina’s”** for a great day of “rocking at their farm” === (9:30 am to 4:00 pm) --- Limonite after pyrite pseudomorphs in the pasture, followed by a burger/hotdog cookout (bring a side dish or dessert to share), rock swap/sell (bring one table max), and a Rock Treasure Hunt for everyone. 28 people have signed up. Let’s get more kids – 4 so far. It will be super fun for everyone who loves rocks.

Sign up soon with Dave (Field Trip Chair) by email.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 1-4—RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA:

Annual show; Treasures of the Earth, Inc; North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Road, Kerr Scott Building; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5, Mon. 10-4; \$8 for adults, 16 and under free; Vendors offer a wide selection of crystals, minerals, fossils, gemstones and jewelry of all types, pearls and beads and beading supplies. Wire-wrappers can design and wrap custom jewelry at the show; contact Ellen White, (757) 641-2124; Email: Ellen@TreasuresOfTheEarth.com; [Website](#)

SEPTEMBER 8-10—BOWLING GREEN, OHIO:

Annual show; Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club; Wood County Fairgrounds, Pratt Pavilion, 13800 W Poe Rd; Fri. 12-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$5 Adults, \$4 Teens, 12 and under free; 30,000 sf of fabulous vendors, display, kids activities, demos and more! Something for everyone; contact Jerri Heer, (419) 344-9999; Email: jheerx6@aol.com; [Website](#)

SEPTEMBER 8-10—WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA:

Annual show; Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club, Inc; Educational Building Winston-Salem

Fairgrounds, Gate 9 - 412 27th Street, NW; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$ 3 - kids thru grade 12 free with accompanying adult; Theme: My Favorite Mineral Color Various demonstrations of: Wirewrapping, Cabachon Cutting, Beading, Faceting and Jewelry Making. Buy a geode from the club and watch it cut! Exhibits by local collectors We are on Face Book @ Forsyth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show; contact Arvil Marion; Email: mariona1@yadtel.net; [Website](#)

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/>

SEPTEMBER 9 - 10: DANBURY MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY 2023 GEM, JEWELRY, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW. Sarah Noble Intermediate School, 25 Sunny Valley Rd, New Milford, CT 06776. At least 16 dealers with minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, related crafts, and more. Displays, door prizes, mineral identification, etc. Sat 10 – 5, Sun 10 – 4. Admission: \$5 adults, \$4.00 seniors, and full time-students with ID. Free admission for kids 11 and under and Scouts in uniform.

SEPTEMBER 16-17—POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK: Show and sale; Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Inc; Gold's Gym & Family Sport Center, 258 Titusville Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, Seniors / Students \$4, Children Under 12 FREE With Adult; 30 Dealers: Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Beads & Gems. Sluice for minerals at "Garnet Gulch". Six free rocks for kids at "Glitter Mountain". Lapidary

demonstrations. Earth Science "scavenger hunt" for area HS students. Displays of USA Rocks & Minerals by Vassar Geology Museum & MHVG&MS members; contact Linda Wuest; Email: garnet327@hvc.rr.com; [Website](#)

SEPTEMBER 22-24—RICHMOND, VIRGINIA:

Show and sale; Treasures of the Earth, Inc; Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 E Laburnum Ave, Old Dominion Building; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$8 for adults, 16 and under free; Vendors offer a wide selection of crystals, minerals, fossils, gemstones and jewelry of all types, pearls and beads and beading supplies. The Richmond Gem and Mineral Society provides displays of Virginia rocks, minerals, fossils and many dinosaur bones; contact Ellen White, (757) 641-2124; Email: Ellen@TreasuresOfTheEarth.com; [Website](#)

SEPTEMBER 23 - 24: THE GEM CUTTER'S GUILD OF BALTIMORE PRESENTS THE 58TH ANNUAL ATLANTIC COAST GEM MINERAL JEWELRY AND FOSSIL SHOW. Saturday: 10 am – 6 pm, Sunday: 10 am – 5 pm. Join the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore for a fun, fascinating and family-friendly event featuring gems and minerals from around the world and fun activities for all ages. Award-winning displays of jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, and lapidary art. Choice rough, slabs, tools, finished gems, minerals, fossils, beads, and jewelry for sale. Interactive gem mine for the kids and door prizes every hour. Adults \$6 (no advanced reservation required; tickets available at the door). Scouts in Uniform and Kids 12 and under, admitted free! ATM onsite. Food and refreshments available on the premises! Howard County Fairgrounds,

2210 Fairgrounds Rd., West Friendship, MD 21794

OCTOBER 6-8—VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA:

Show and sale; Treasures of the Earth, Inc; Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$8 for adults, 16 and under free; Vendors offer a wide selection of crystals, minerals, fossils, gemstones and jewelry of all types, pearls and beads and beading supplies. There will be demonstrations and displays by the two local gem & mineral clubs and a gemologist available for appraisals; contact Ellen White, (757) 641-2124; Email: Ellen@TreasuresOfTheEarth.com; [Website](#)

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 20-22—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA:

Show and sale; Franklin Chamber of Commerce & Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin NC; Robert C Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$3; Age 13-18 \$2; 12 & Under FREE; Rough & Cut Gemstones, Gold & Silver Jewelry, Minerals, Tools, Demonstrations, Door Prize Drawings every hour ; contact Linda Harbuck, (828) 524-3161; Email: linda@franklin-chamber.com; [Website](#)

OCTOBER 21-22—SOUTH CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA: Annual show; Kanawha Rock and Gem Club; South Charleston Community Center, 601 Jefferson Road; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$2 13 years old and up; Free 12 years old and under; Free Military ID; \$2 Family with discount postcard; Door prize drawings hourly - must be present to win. Grand Prize drawing: 1st prize \$150 gift certificate to use in 2024 show and 2nd prize is \$75 to use at 2024 show and do not have to be present to win. Geode cracking Childrens sandbags with rocks and gems Demonstrations; contact Robert Campbell, (304) 925-3974; Email: nancamp54@hotmail.com; [Website](#)

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

World's first 'boomerang meteorite' discovered in Sahara Desert: Rock that left Earth and spent millennia in space has now returned

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12345833/Worlds-boomerang-meteorite-discovered-Sahara-Desert-Rock-left-Earth-spent-millennia-space-returned.html>

Mystery of how diamonds are formed is SOLVED: Sparkling jewels 'erupt' on the Earth's surface after being driven upwards

by the breakup of tectonic plates in our planet's mantle

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12340569/Mystery-diamonds-formed-SOLVED-Sparkling-jewels-erupt-Earths-surface-driven-upwards-breakup-tectonic-plates-planets-mantle.html>

Exceptionally rare" dinosaur fossils discovered in Maryland

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dinosaur-fossils-discovered-maryland-dinosaur-park/>

Mystery of how diamonds are formed is SOLVED: Sparkling jewels 'erupt' on the Earth's surface after being driven upwards by the breakup of tectonic plates in our planet's mantle

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12340569/Mystery-diamonds-formed-SOLVED-Sparkling-jewels-erupt-Earths-surface-driven-upwards-breakup-tectonic-plates-planets-mantle.html>

Fossilised spider found in quarry in Germany is discovered to be 310million years old after being donated to museum

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12391417/Fossilised-spider-quarry-Germany-310million-years-old.html>

Bible comes to life as precious gems discovered for first time in Israel

Tali Taub, the CEO of Holy Gems in Israel, claims her family was first to discover precious gems in Israel after her late father went on a long journey of exploration. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/precious-gems-discovered-first-time-israel-bringing-bible-verse-life>

MINING.COM

Website of Canadian Mining and the issues / advances they are making that could affect those in the US

GEOLOGY HUB - YOU TUBE CHANNEL**ROCKCHASING.COM**

A site for rockhounds. Describes what can be found in each state with some locations for the material to be found. When one reviews the "Rockhounding in Maryland" (<https://rockchasing.com/rockhounding-in-maryland/>), one will find a link to our club's webpage!!

Deep-Sea Mining Could Begin Soon, Regulated or Not

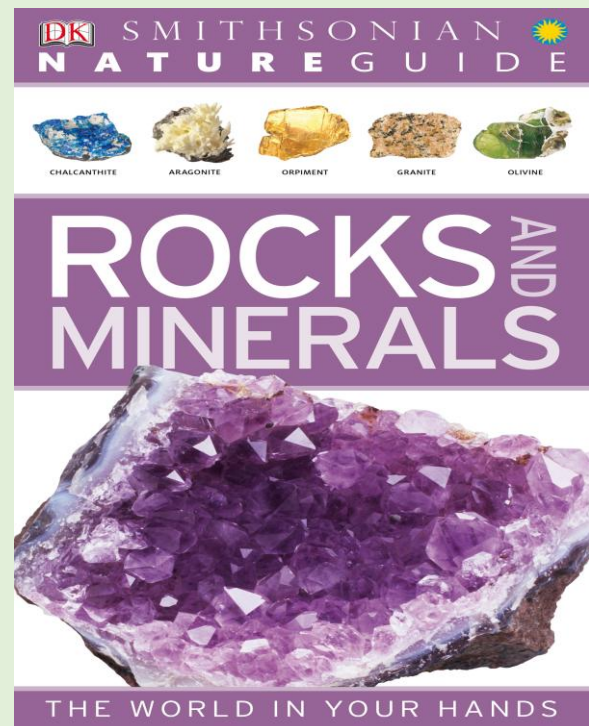
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/deep-sea-mining-could-begin-soon-regulated-or-not/>

70-Million-Year-Old "Dinosaur Coliseum" Is A Vertical Lasagne Of Footprints

<https://www.iflscience.com/70-million-year-old-dinosaur-coliseum-is-a-vertical-lasagne-of-footprints-70248>

Four takeaways from Southwest Virginia's critical mineral investigation

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2023/08/08/four-takeaways-from-southwest-virginias-critical-mineral-investigation/>

Nature Guide: Rocks and Minerals (PDF)

<https://pdfroom.com/books/nature-guide-rocks-and-minerals/9qXgelbbd6P>

Free Download!!!



**Contrary Creek, Mineral, VA ---Gold,
Garnets, Magnetite and Pyrite –
July 22, 2023 by Dave Lines**



July is summer and it is supposed to be hot. The practical solution to staying cool on a summer rock trip is to do it in the water. Gold panning in Contrary Creek fits the bill. Yes, the water quality in the creek is less than ideal. It stains everything a shade of orange. Many of the rocks are orange, too. But not to worry because most can be cleaned with Iron Out. And the rocks you dig up are usually not stained anyway. But I am getting ahead of myself.

We were supposed to meet at 9:00 am, but several folks were late due to various reasons (one person ended up in Culpeper at the 4029 Zachary Taylor Highway address because he forgot to add "Mineral, VA" to his search.) Our safety brief was sporadic. All nine of us (Renee, Rich, Dave, John S., John M., Kenny and Lara, Mike S., and Richard T.) stayed safe.

Four (4) of us carpoled in Rich's truck – that had saved three (3) vehicles

from each wasting gas for the 75 miles each way from my house to Contrary Creek. Carpooling is more fun anyway because we get to know each other better during the trip.

The weather was actually a bit cooler than it had been during the previous week. Temperatures started off around 70 degrees and rose to the low 80's. Very pleasant.

The creek itself was about the same as always. The water level was relatively low and there were a lot of pine trees that had fallen over into the creek up stream of the RT 522 bridge.

We spread out, each person picked a spot, and started digging small holes and panning the gravel. I was fortunate – I hit a layer of black gravel about a foot deep that John S. said looked good for gold because it was virgin gravel that had not been disturbed in a long time. He was right --- I found six (6) small pieces (specs) of gold in my first two (2) pans. Eureka! I also found small magnetite crystals (octahedron shaped), and small almandine garnets (dodecahedron shaped). Also, I found a few pieces of massive magnetite (proven by testing with a magnet) and one piece of mica schist with a small garnet embedded.





At 10:30 am, I took a break and walked around to check with each of our group and take some pictures. John S. was the clear leader of gold panning. He had panned over 100 pieces of fine gold compared to my five (5) pieces. Wow. Members of the Tidewater Club had also arrived and were panning for gold and garnets immediately downstream of the bridge.

I returned to my prospect hole about 11:30 am, and invited several others to dig for gold there, but the gold layer seemed to have petered out. When John S. left, he offered me his hole, which I tried for both gold and for garnets. Not much luck there either due to a large amount of pyrite clogging up my gold pan each time. A suggestion for finding garnets: Don't use a small mesh classifier to sift the gravel before you pan it. If you do use the 1/4" classifier, all garnets larger than 1/4" will be excluded from your pan.



The Tidewater club members left about noon. Our group mostly left at 1:00 pm. The four of us in Rich's truck remained until 2 pm. We filled in all our holes and left the place looking pretty good. Just as we were leaving a family of four (dad, mom and 2 kids) arrived and started panning. About the same time, three guys arrived

and started panning. It has become a popular place to find some rocks.



After we departed for home, we passed a large area that looked like it had been recently timbered. We noticed that there was a lot of bare ground – always a good place to check for rocks. Since there were no “Posted” signs, we turned around and drove onto the property to see if there was anything there worth collecting. If there was, we planned to track down the owner and get permission to collect there another time. As it turned out, the ground was covered in garnets up to ½” in size that had weathered out of the soil. Now we will have to find the owner and try to get

permission to collect there. It looked real promising.

Overall, we had so much fun, I decided to hold another trip to the creek on August 5th. Hope you can sign up and join us.

A Second Visit to Contrary Creek by Dave Lines

When Rich, Jill and I arrived at 8:40 am, Renee and her granddaughter, Haven, were already waiting for us. I showed them some of the “sample specimens” so they would know what to look for. We were scheduled to meet at 9:00 am, but folks straggled in at different times until after 9:30 am. (Note: Unfortunately, when this happens, the trip leader has a difficult time giving a safety brief to everyone. In fact, it becomes impossible.) The last to arrive made the error of not adding “Mineral, VA” to the street address I had provided. This person drove to the exact same highway address in “Culpeper” --- many miles in the wrong direction. Lots of unnecessary extra miles. Fortunately, the trip leader was able to turn them around and guide them back to the correct location --- all by cell phone. Such are the challenges of a Trip Leader. I gave up trying to give the safety briefing to everyone. Everyone finally made it to the meeting location and down the steep path to the creek. Our group had 13 people --- Rich, Dave, Jill, Renee, Haven, Diane and her 2 grandsons Kolton and Kyler, Kurt and Sue, Alton and Teresa, and Katie.

At about 9:45 am, I finally took my gear down to the creek and held an impromptu training session with a “magnet” --- showing several of our people how a magnet could definitively identify

magnetite which is plentiful at this location. Then I showed them pyrite --- “fool’s gold” --- also abundant here.



Rich had dug a shallow hole and found gray clay – usually a good indicator (in this location) of gold and loose garnets. I put some in a gold pan and panned it out – but no gold and no garnets. I think the clay was too sandy --- needs to be primarily sticky, gray clay.



I checked on the rest of our attendees. All were busy having fun finding rocks. I then went to the spot on the gravel bar where I had found gold two weeks before. I dug down about 18 inches until I

found a layer of black or dark colored gravel that was tightly compressed – because it had never been disturbed in a very long time. I showed others what I was doing and then I filled a 5-gallon bucket full of the gravel. Then I took it over to the sluice I had previously set-up in the stream where there was a good amount of fast running water. My sluice was light weight aluminum about 3-1/2 feet long and one foot wide with green felt on the bottom covered with a sheet of expanded metal. I had positioned the sluice box with a 10 degree drop and placed a few rocks near the entrance of the sluice box to create a funnel which increased the water flow through the sluice. I spent about 30 minutes feeding the gravel material into the sluice.



Then I took a break and snapped some pictures of everyone. They were spread out about 100 yards along the creek. Most of them were finding garnets and pyrite. I found a near-perfect pyrite cube and gave it to Kolton. Katie had found some nice garnets by digging down into the creek.



After my break, I dug another bucket of gravel and ran it through the sluice. At about noon, I began a clean-up of the sluice in two stages – first, I panned the gravel that had collected at the entry of the sluice box. Eureka !! I found four specs of gold – and some small garnets and a small, but perfect, crystal of magnetite – which was shaped like two (2) back-to-back pyramids. Then I removed the expanded metal and felt and rinsed it all into my gold pan. I then panned out this material and found a few more specs of gold. It was a long process, but definitely faster than individually panning the two (2) buckets full of gravel a single pan at a time.



I did not have a chance toward the end of the trip to see what everyone found this time. The two boys seemed quite happy panning for garnets and collecting rocks that looked like houses. Rich had found zero garnets until almost noon, when he shifted to a new location out in the stream and found an area full of nice garnets. Katie's discovery of garnets attracted about six (6) of our group to join her. Alton seemed happy just observing all the activity. The weather certainly cooperated as we had a very pleasant day for panning in the creek.



Spreading the Word about our Rock Show

by Dave Lines

There was a short announcement in the local county paper about a “geology program” for kids about the rocks that could be found in Charles County at the Potomac Branch of the library. It was during a weekday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. Thinking that it might be a good opportunity to pass out some of our Rock Show fliers, I called the library and asked if the program was for adults as well. Their answer – no, it was just for kids. I decided to go anyway. I printed out 20 copies of the small flyer size and headed across the county to that library branch.

When I arrived, I spotted a little kid with an adult near the base of a tree outside the library. The kid was searching in the mulch around the tree for pebbles. Incredible! Thinking “our club has so much to offer”, I really felt sorry for the child trying to find rocks in that mulch. I spoke with the adult lady and asked where the geology program was being held and who oversaw it. She was very helpful and said the program was in the meeting room just inside the front door on the right and the person to see was “Sarah”. I went in and was amazed to see a large room very full of kids with their Moms. Actually, I was blown away. There were at least 40 kids and 20 mothers – and the place was loud with lots of noisy, enthusiastic kids all intently copying a “hardness diagram” with its scale from 1 to 10. They were all very happily chattering about rocks!

At first, I took a seat beside a lady (who was one of the moms) near the door and struck up a conversation about what was going on. I told her about our upcoming Rock Show on October 7th and gave her a flier. She was full of information and suggested that I also contact the “homeschooling group” in the county and tell them know about our show. I thanked her for pointing out “Sarah” and then left to talk with Sarah. Sarah was very receptive to my giving her the show fliers and almost immediately announced to the room that she had some information about a local Rock Show to be held in Waldorf. The stack of fliers disappeared in seconds as the Moms in the room all grabbed one and seemed genuinely thankful for finding out about our show.

As I returned home, I began thinking about my efforts --- maybe I had spent a total of 10 minutes there and I had reached a group of parents and kids who were very receptive to the idea of a Rock, Mineral and Fossil show --- especially one held locally. Yes, it took a couple of hours of time, but I think it was well spent. Those moms will tell others about our show as well. I bet some will attend our show. Now it is your turn to spread the word.



Meet the Flint Stones

by Ralph Gamba

When it comes to collecting minerals, flint never seems to be high on one's list. For the most part, it does not have the beauty of agate. But when the opportunity comes to collect flint, especially in a classic location, it can't be passed up.

The opportunity came for Mary C. and me (Ralph G.) when we headed to Michigan via Columbus, Ohio. We stopped for the night in Zanesville, Ohio. A quick look at the maps showed we were near Flint Ridge, in Glenford, Ohio, famous for flint. Flint is the Ohio state gemstone.



Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries and Nature Preserve

Flint is a type of cryptocrystalline quartz. Wikipedia defines cryptocrystalline as “a rock texture made up of such minute crystals that its crystalline nature is only vaguely revealed even microscopically in thin section by transmitted polarized light. “

We discovered the web site for Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries and Nature Preserves and saw that they were open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the summer. It was Friday so we visited the preserve. The museum opened at 10 AM, but they had trails where we walked until the museum opened. The trails wandered around many pits that were used to quarry the flint. No flint was exposed because of leaves and dirt cover. Admission to the museum was \$3.00, but seniors get a one-dollar discount. We saw beautiful examples of flint and how Native Americans used the flint as tools and weapons. The museum was built around one of the pits that were used for quarrying the flint. Collecting was not permitted at the site.

We talked with museum personnel, and he showed us that the flint was heat treated to bring out its vibrant colors. The museum had nice samples for sale, and we purchased one for each of us. We obtained information about where we could collect flint for ourselves. A local farm allowed collecting for \$7.50 per person and \$0.50 a pound.

While returning to the car, we chatted with a family who was going to the museum. They mentioned that they lived nearby, and the flint was scattered all over the area. We didn't want to spend too much time collecting, so we decided to stop

along the road to see what we could find. We found some nice examples of flint. Each of us collected about a dozen samples of various sizes. One of Mary's specimens had quartz points on one side. Two of Ralph's specimens had crystal lined vugs. Figure 1 shows the specimen with a ½ inch vug. Figures 2 and 3 show more specimens of Flint Ridge flint. Figure 4 shows heat treated flint. The heat treatment brought out the colors of the flint. Yes, we did have a "Yabba Dabba Doo" time collecting flint.



Figure 1. Flint specimens. The one on the right shows the crystal lined vug.



Figure 2. Flint Ridge flint.



Figure 3. Flint Ridge flint.



Figure 4. Heat treated flint.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF MINERALS

<https://geology.com/geology/physical-properties-of-minerals/>

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

(REACTION TO) ACID**CLEAVAGE****COLOR****CRYSTAL FORM****DENSITY****ELECTRICAL****FRACTURE****(SPECIFIC) GRAVITY****HARDNESS****LUSTER****MAGNETISM****ODOR****OPACITY****OPTICAL****PHOSPHORESCENCE****PIEZOELECTRICITY****PSEUDOMORPHISM****RADIOACTIVE****SOLUBLE****STREAK****STRIATION****TASTE****THERMAL****TENACITY****TRANSPARENCY**

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

