



# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## ROCK TALK

## SEPTEMBER 2023

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

### **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM** **Mineral families "show and tell"** by Diane Etherton

My introduction to geology was through reading the Roadside Geology books as we drove across the country over the decades to visit our families out west. Later, I learned that mineral families were classified by their chemistry, so that is how I will approach this very basic overview. I will give a simple, big-picture framework, no prior chemistry class required. The fun part is that I will have many, many specimens that demonstrate various aspects of how minerals are classified and identified.... *Sounds like a family reunion!!*

### **IN THIS EDITION**

Saturday on the Farm  
7 year old finds Diamond  
Dolphin Skull found by the Chesapeake  
SMRMC Show Flyer

### **22 AUGUST 2023 MINUTES**

Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD  
Annual Member Auction

Meeting was called to order at 6:17 PM by Sue Knower, VP for Programs. We have several visitors and potential new members attending.

**SECRETARY:** First order of business was to approve July Minutes. Ralph moved and Kurt seconded to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

**Membership (Vycki):** No Report.

**Facebook posts/members (Kurt):** We have 372 '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.

**TREASURER:** No report

**PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS:** Sue and Kurt are provided the night's refreshments. Tim and Lorna will provide refreshments for September. Sue reported that an October

Program is needed, as well as refreshments are needed for October. Tentative program for September is a presentation on organization of minerals by Diane.

#### **FIELD TRIPS REPORT (Dave):**

Recent Past Field Trips: Aug 5 – Mineral, Va.- Gold panning, dodecahedron almandine garnets, pyrite xls and massive, magnetite xls and massive, actinolite. 13 signed up, 13 attended. (Dave found a gold fleck!)

Upcoming Field Trips: 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 at this location was canceled due to too few people signing up.) Attendees are asked to bring a pot luck side dish or dessert. One can expect to find limonite after pyrite pseudomorphs, as well as other specimens from the farm.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

One of the visitors, Liz Kreuzberg (who plans to join) inquired about the possibility of club (a)representative(s) presenting a program on rocks and minerals to her Boy Scout troop (1973). Perhaps a badge could be developed for the scouts.

Kenny suggested doing some outside activities, like hunting for fossils on the beach. Camp Maries Retreat camp from Leonardtown on Breanton Bay.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Rock Show announcement was in newsletter. It is October 7. Dave has flyers to

pass around for placement in public areas such as barbershops, salons, etc.

Dave reminded everyone of the October 7 Rock Show we are hosting and asked for everyone’s help in publicizing our event. This is a major component of having a successful Rock Show.

Teresa was asked about nametags, and she will have these for the Sept meeting.

Dave is concerned about permission for children attending field trips, in particular, safety and insurance concerns.

**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 programs on geode cracking, which he also demonstrated. Members were able to have hands-on practice.

Thanks to Sue and Kurt for providing tonight’s refreshments.

There being no more business, Kurt moved to adjourn and Paula seconded. Motion passed.

The business meeting was followed by an exciting Members’ auction where many beautiful and unique items were offered. Thanks to Rich for organizing and Ralph for serving as auctioneer.

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### 2023 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
26 SEPT 2023	Mineral Families by Diane Etherton	Tim and Lorna
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
MAR 2024	TBD	TBD

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

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **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](mailto:Ellen@TreasuresOfTheEarth.com); [W ebsite](#)

**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: [lindah@franklin-chamber.com](mailto:lindah@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](mailto: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](mailto:www.uvgeologist@yahoo.com)

***Editors opinion: One of the best fluorescent shows one can attend!!***

### **ODDS AND ENDS**

#### **VIDEO SHORTS**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Z5xmkriFz0g>

#### **3 CRYSTALS WITH HIDDEN SECRETS**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/V3tAnkZA6Ug>

#### **CRYSTALLIZED GOLD FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/QBYo67830ns>

#### **6 STRANGE BUT BEAUTIFUL CRYSTALS FROM THE RUDOLPH MINERALS COLLECTION**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/jJtJHqknWw0>

#### **4 MAGICAL ROCKS**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/8sMn6dpeqto>

#### **TRIPPY MALACHITE CRYSTALS**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/ipofQWG51lo>

#### **RARE STONE FOUND, CUT, & POLISHED. OOLITIC IRONSTONE JASPER**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/RjuRT3KeT2A>

#### **7 INTERESTING CRYSTALS**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/iZNERW5ll8o>

#### **HOW MUCH GOLD IS IN HOME DEPOT SAND?**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/2bUtfBuekjA>

**FOSSIL HUNTERS CRACK OPEN AMMONITE**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/CnwjCSIGxug>

**ENORMOUS BEACH ROCK SPLIT IN HALF**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/QoSAMiADKVY>

**MAKING A CABOCHON OUT OF A JASPER STONE**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/baiJAZKXdW4>

**UGLY NODULE??**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/0rqqueJFfpl>

**BUT WHICH CRYSTAL HAS THE COOLEST SECRET OF THEM ALL?**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/NPA8DC8fnxl>

**MYSTERIOUS COLD LIGHT**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Mq-OzedxoQA>

**FIXING A BROKEN CABOCHON**

[https://www.youtube.com/shorts/3hhM8\\_wyvkW](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/3hhM8_wyvkW)

**CRYSTAL BALL MYSTERY MIX**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/jnF3L4ttbtY>

**RARE CRYSTAL COLLECTION**

[https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WMg\\_jcE5hOc](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WMg_jcE5hOc)

**MAKING AN OBSIDIAN KNIFE WITH A DEER ANTLER HANDLE**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Ctv5kPslOjQ>

**LEGENDARY GIANT CRYSTALS**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WwG-obicyNQ>

**WHEN I FOUND A CRYSTAL ON THE ROADSIDE**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/8wGeSs4YCVs>

**WASHING GRAPE AGATE IN A CLEAR LAKE**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/pgSwLi1qRaY>

**FAVORITE CRYSTALS WE SOLD IN 2022**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/2Ze9OSc8Xho>

**A JAR FILLED WITH ETHIOPIAN OPALS, ONE HAS AN EGG INSIDE**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/N4Wyz1WZyYo>

**WHAT IS INSIDE THAT ROCK?**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/or-Ysd8Tm2Q>

**6 TRIPPY CRYSTALS**

**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!!

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230904-how-the-royal-mint-is-turning-electronic-waste-into-gold>

### **The gold jewellery made from old phones**

E-waste is mounting. Now the UK Royal Mint has found a new way to extract the precious metals hidden in laptops and phones to reduce our reliance on raw materials.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12504841/Worlds-largest-lithium-deposit-McDermitt-Caldera-US.html>

**World's biggest lithium reservoir found in supervolcano McDermitt Caldera in Nevada - with \$1.5trillion worth of the precious metal that powers world's technology**

### **Saturday on the Farm**

Hi all --- We had 28 club members on Saturday's (16 September) Field Trip to Harry and Tina's place. As you saw, they put a great deal of effort into the preparations for us ---

- \*preparing the horse pasture and other areas for us to look for Devil's Dice (limonite after pyrite pseudomorphs)

- \*donating and placing all those rocks and minerals around their property for the treasure hunt

- \*donating the sand and minerals and fossils – and placing the “sandbox” laced with those specimens for the kids (and some adults)

- \*providing sifting screens for the “sandbox”

- \*making a “sampler” tray with labels and a guide sheet of all the various minerals and fossils they “hid” for the Treasure hunt

- \* setting up tables and chairs and a tent in their garage for our lunch

- \*providing and cooking hamburgers and hotdogs for us

- \*Providing us condiments, plastic ware utensils, paper plates and cups as well as table coverings

- \*As well as lots of other preparations we did not even notice.

Many thanks to Tina and HDevil's Dice (limonite after pyrite pseudomorphs). (Plentiful!!)

3. LUNCH!! No one went away hungry!

4. Treasure Hunt! Tina laid out multiple minerals for all to find. "Treasure Guides" were there to help with identification along with a "Sampler Box" of what could be found.

5. Sandbox Discovery. Screens were available to sort for different crystals and material.

6. Rock Swap / Sale - members could bring out material they wanted to trade or sell.

7. Side Trip - The Lake Recreation Park (about 3 miles away). The beaches had MANY Devil's Dice (limonite after pyrite pseudomorphs) there to be collected!

**Overall an OUTSTANDING day with many friends and the "rock" family.**

Thank you to **Renee** for taking these pictures!











## 7-year-old girl finds large diamond on her birthday at Arkansas park known for precious stones

Story by Amaris Encinas, USA TODAY •

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/7-year-old-girl-finds-large-diamond-on-her-birthday-at-arkansas-park-known-for-precious-stones/ar-AA1gpooA?OCID=ansmsnnews11>



The golden-brown diamond found by 7-year-old Aspen Brown was the first large found after an excavation project was started at the park.

A 7-year-old girl found the second largest diamond recorded this year at an Arkansas state park.

Aspen Brown was visiting [Crater of Diamonds State Park](#) in Murfreesboro, about 90 miles southwest of Little Rock, with her family on Friday to celebrate her birthday.

Aspen went home with a shiny new trinket from the park, a 2.95 golden brown carat diamond found on the north side of the park, according to a news update from Arkansas State Parks.

The largest diamond found this year was unearthed in March weighing in at about 3.29 carat. The diamond was also brown.

### More on Aspen's adventure on Crater of Diamonds State Park

The Paragould resident and her family were walking on a plowed field, right above the eroded surface of a volcano when she decided to stop and take a break.

"She got hot and wanted to sit down for a minute, so she walked over to some big rocks by the fence line. Next thing I know, she was running to me, saying 'Dad! Dad! I found one!,'" Aspen's dad Luther Brown shared with park officials.

The gem Aspen picked up along the pathway was the size of a pea. The family stopped by the Diamond Discovery Center to have park officials confirm the find was a diamond.

"Aspen's diamond has a golden-brown color and a sparkling luster. It is a complete crystal with no broken facets and a small crevice on one side that was created when the diamond was formed. Its certainly one of the most beautiful diamonds I've seen in recent years," assistant park superintendent Waymon Cox said.

Visitors often name the diamond or diamonds they find at the park. Luther Brown thought that the Aspen diamond was the perfect name for the diamond his daughter found.

“There was no skill required for her to find it. She was just in the right place at the right time,” Luther Brown said.

### **How many diamonds have been found?**

A farmer by the name of John Huddleston was digging up diamonds on Crater of Diamonds land way before it became a state park in 1972. Over 75,000 diamonds have been found since then, according to park officials.

The largest diamond ever found in the U.S. was found at Crater of Diamonds in 1924 during an early mining operation.

One to two diamonds are found by park visitors every day and 563 diamonds have been registered at the park in 2023, totaling more than 89 carats.

Aspen’s diamond was the first large diamond registered since park officials started an excavation project last month.

“A contracted company dug a 150-yard trench in August to help manage erosion on the north side of the search area. Several tons of unsearched diamond-bearing material were exposed and it's very possible that this diamond and others were uncovered as a result,” park superintendent Caleb Howell wrote.

### **Tips for finding a diamond at Crater of Diamonds State Park**

Crater of Diamonds State Park is one of the only places in the world where visitors can search for diamonds from an

original volcanic source, according to the Crater of Diamonds State Park’s [website](#).

The diamond search area consists of a 37.5 acre field. Any rocks, minerals, or gemstones a visitor finds are theirs to keep.

Visitors can also bring their own mining equipment or rent tools from the park. No battery powered or motor-driven mining tools are permitted, the website stated.

Even though diamonds come in all shapes and colors, the three colors most commonly found at the park are: white, brown, and yellow. Park staff will assist in identifying all of the rocks, minerals, or gems found in the park.

### **Here are some things to keep an eye out for as you search:**

Diamonds are usually clean crystals with a rounded surface and metallic shine

About half of all diamonds registered by park guests are found in sifted gravel taken home from the park.

Each guest may take up to five gallons of sifted gravel home per day to search for diamonds later.

Diamond search area admission is \$13 for adults and \$6.20 for children. An admissions pass cost \$220. For more information, visit Crater of Diamonds State Park’s [website](#).

## 'Big win': Woman finds 15-million-year-old dolphin skull along Chesapeake Bay

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/big-win-woman-finds-15-million-year-old-dolphin-skull-along-chesapeake-bay/3402073/>

*A volunteer at the Calvert Marine Museum found the skull while combing the shores below the Calvert Cliffs in Maryland*

By **Mark Seagraves, News4 Reporter** • Published August 10, 2023 • Updated on August 10, 2023 at 5:15 pm

A woman's rare discovery along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County, Maryland, could someday prove significant for science, experts say.

Emily Bzdyk, a volunteer at the Calvert Marine Museum on Solomons Island, was combing the shores along the Calvert Cliffs on Saturday when she spotted what looked like a bone in the shallow water. She was able to dig it out with the help of other museum volunteers.

That bone turned out to be a 15-million-year-old dolphin skull.

"It's a really impressive find. It's a really nice dolphin skull, said Stephen Groff, who manages the Calvert Marine Museum's fossil collection.

Bzdyk, an entomologist by training, is among generations of people who enjoy searching for fossils at the Calvert Cliffs, which have stood there for nearly 20 million years.

"There's definitely that treasure hunter aspect, but it's fascinating to learn about all these animals," she said.

Groff said it's rare to find a skull in such good condition.

He said the dolphin would have had a long snout. The skull Bzdyk discovered appeared to be about 2 feet long, but Groff said some skulls from that time period can be up to 4 feet long.

"It could even be a new species. It's probably not, but it could be. So it's adding another little piece to the puzzle that was Calvert County 15 million years ago," Groff said.

Bzdyk couldn't hold back from smiling as she stood over her discovery.

She said she'll spend the next few months cleaning the silt and clay off of the skull before it goes on public display.

"It's very exciting, I'm thrilled. It's a cool feeling knowing that, you know, we got it out safely and it's going to be here at the museum for, you know, science. It's a big win," Bzdyk said.

While many fossil hunters take pride in displaying their finds at home, Bzdyk said she's alright with the dolphin skull staying at the museum.

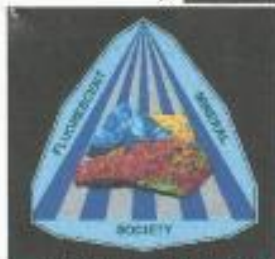
"I have a pretty large collection. There's not going to be enough space in my house for something like this anyway, but I'm really happy it will be here and anyone can come see it," she said.

The Calvert Marine Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and people can watch volunteers work to clean the dolphin skull when they visit.



# FLUORESCENT MINERAL SHOW

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show on SAT., **10.28.23**



## ULTRAVIOLATION 2023


The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County presents this fluorescent mineral show and sale at the First Methodist Church,

840 Trenton Rd, in Fairless Hills, PA 19030.  
Only 2 miles from the new Route 295 and 10 miles from the Philadelphia/Rt 1 exit of the Pa Turnpike

**Saturday, October 28, 2023**  
9am to 4pm

Alternating Periods of Room Darkness and Light



- UV Lamps and Flashlights for Sale!
- Fluorescent Mineral Displays 
- Door Prizes. Snacks and beverages available

\$3.00 admission; All kids under 12 free with paying adult

For Dealer information call Lee McIlvaine at 215.713.8020  
or email [uvgeologist@yahoo.com](mailto:uvgeologist@yahoo.com); \$30 per 8 ft table

**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 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

