



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

DECEMBER 2023

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

DECEMBER PROGRAM "HOLIDAY PARTY"

For our December gathering, we will do a "quick" business meeting and proceed to the "Pot Luck Buffett" (with minimal weight gain hopefully) and move to the "Gift Exchange". A reminder flyer is included in the newsletter. That is so no one can say "they were never told". Guaranteed to have good times and some laughs when the gifts are exchanged. Fun shall be had by all!!

IN THIS EDITION

Delaware Petrified Wood
 Purse State Park Finds
 Year in Review
 Holiday Pot Luck/Gift Exchange Flyer

NOVEMBER 2023 MINUTES

Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD
 November 27, 2023

October Minutes submitted by Teresa Jones. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President Vycki Borgnis.

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: Approximately 20 Members in attendance. No visitors noted.

SECRETARY: Correction to October 24 minutes: Under new business, the following people volunteered to serve on the Members Auction Committee: Jill, Kenny, Kurt, Sue, Theresa and Ralph G. Jill moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Carole seconded; minutes were approved with corrections.

MEMBERSHIP: This report does not include anything I received this evening. Prior to tonight's meeting, we had 143 members, of which 22 are junior members. This number also includes 13 past due pending membership renewals. I am delinquent in sending out renewal notices and hope to catch up within the next week.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report

FACEBOOK posts/members: 457. Kurt mentioned there have been lots of posts from members and nonmembers site. Continue to post pictures/ items that might be of interest.

WEBSITE: Nothing new to report.

NEWSLETTER: Rich requested that he receive a list of future programs and Refreshment volunteers. He is also in need of Word Search ideas for the newsletter. He brought to everyone's attention an omission in the October newsletter (Add the dates to your calendar): March 16-17, 2024.

Montgomery County Rock Club show will be held (flyer in Newsletter). He also mentioned the Fluorescence Mineral Society had a show which should be of great interest to members. Please continue to send him articles of interest and ideas of what they would like to see in the newsletter.

PROGRAMS: Sue reported that the December meeting will be our annual Christmas potluck and Chinese Gift Exchange. Remember to bring a rock-related gift for the Chinese Gift Exchange. It will be held Tues., December 19 at 6:00 pm in our meeting room. Value of the gift should not exceed \$20.00. Sue distributed three clipboards for 2024 Programs presenters, Refreshments and Items to bring for the Potluck.

Programs are needed for 2024. She encouraged anyone who has a topic of interest to consider presenting to the group in 2024 or to let her know of any topics you are interested in.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Dave reported that the 2024 field trip season has basically ended, except for 'go on your own' trips to collect fossils when there are blow-out tides. Suggestions include Purse Park, Clifton Beach, Liverpool Pt. and Chesapeake Bay. He will notify members about the tides.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dave sent thank you notes for the 2023 Rock show to 22 people (including vendors). Flyers are already ready to publicize the 2024 show. He implored members to post the flyer on their social media and invite folks in person.

2024 SMRMC Rock, Minerals and Fossils show will be held Oct. 5, 2024. Kenny Jameson is willing to be co-chair. He suggested a 2-day show because of the time it takes to set up. Jill volunteered to be on the committee, especially preplanning, as well as Vycki.

Kenny suggested various committees be formed, such as Vendor Recruitment, Set Up, and others.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next year's Rock Show is scheduled for **Oct. 5, 2024**. Save the date!

Member Auction: Member Auction Committee: Jill, Kenny, Kurt, Sue, Theresa and Ralph G. It was suggested the Kurt be chairman, but when the committee meets, they will decide on the chairman. If anyone else wants to be on the committee, email Sue.

ELECTIONS FOR 2024

Open Positions are President, Secretary, VP. – Programs, Rock Show chairman (committee position)

Kurt nominated Vycki for president; Teresa seconded. After asking about other nominations, Tim Smith self-nominated for president and Kenny seconded. After

discussion, Vycki agreed to continue as V. P.- Membership Chairman. Teresa agreed to continue as Secretary, but needs a sub... Sue volunteered to take minutes in the event of Teresa's absence. Jill volunteered to do V.P Programs.

A motions was made by Carole and seconded by Rich to accept the slate of officers. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Jill moved and Sue seconded to adjourn. Motion passed and the business meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. After the door prize drawing (thanks, Dave), members were treated to yummy refreshments provided by Polly. Carole and Al.

Astronomy Program: Jill presented an informative and interesting presentation on Astronomy, such as the best phone apps for locating constellations. She provided information on the constellations, as well as info about the moon and inner planets.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2023 year has been a historic time for the SMRMC members. We as a club, did tremendous things that made the group excel.

We had elections and Joe Davis relinquished his position after two (2) years of outstanding leadership and has allowed our new president, Tim Smith to bring his foresight and leadership skills to the group to further solidify the club as a leader in the Rock and Mineral community.

Sue Knower desired to move away from the position of Vice President/Programs

Director so Jill Lee has stepped forward to take this position on for 2024.

The remaining positions will be maintained by those previously holding them for 2024. Vycki will maintain the VP/Membership, Dave Lines as the long time Field Trip Coordinator, Greta as the Treasurer, Bob Davidson will continue as the WebMaster, Kurt Knower as the FACEBOOK Coordinator, and myself as the Newsletter Editor since before COVID-19.

The following is a synopsis of how we started in January and where we are at now in December of 2023 (just as cold and nasty..)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the life blood of any organization, and the Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club (SMRMC) is no different. Our breadth of membership brings together experts and enthusiasts, those that can break down rocks and minerals to the elemental level, as well as those that just think the rocks are "pretty", like me. Our membership gives us our knowledge base, camaraderie, encouragement, and fulfills a social need for many.

As membership chair in April 2023, the club had we had 112 members, of which 18 were junior members. Currently, the club has 121 members, including 22 junior members. Growth of 8% in overall membership and 22% in our junior membership has been remarkable.

It's great to see our junior membership grow and our junior members prosper, as we continue to bring up the next generation of rock hounds.

PROGRAMS

Ten (10) programs were scheduled and held.

A New Find of Purple Apatite at
Maine's Pulsifer Quarry
Quarry Safety
Rock Tumbling Basics
Gold Panning
Geode Cracking
Annual Auction
Mineral Families
Beer Flat Bragging
Astronomy
Holiday Party

WEBMASTER

During the past 12 months, we have had 2,304 visitors to the website. That's an increase of 10% over the previous period. The average visitor looked at 2.13 pages. I received several inquiries through "Contact Us" with questions about the rock show, rock identification, lapidary services, and more specific questions about the club. They were forwarded to the appropriate persons for answering.

The website hasn't changed much in the past year. Field Trip reports, "Rock Talk", and Rock Show information are added each month as they are received. I created a link to the Lapidary Club website and vice-versa so members of each club can get information about the other. About one-third of the Lapidary Club members are also SMRMC members.

This year I would like to work on optimizing the site for cell phone users.

FACEBOOK

Numbers have increased over the year and improvement in the group is growing.

Increase of membership from November 2022 of 170 to 459 members as of 01 Dec 2023 with an average of 5-10 new members a week. Presently 465. The increase of 289 this year has a 270 percent increase over one's year growth.

The interactions with other Facebook groups have increased. This was done at shows and with personal interactions. Posting our work and cross posting to other Facebook pages new members have found our Facebook group. Many members have also invited other people that have become new members and crossposted their posts too.

In the last three (3) or so months an increase has been seen in other members besides myself posting and participating actively. Recognition has been made to their posts and comment as this is important to group participation and growth.

FIELD TRIPS

The club has had an active year of field trips as individual and with other nearby clubs.

Locations visited this year have been:
Contrary Creek, Mineral, VA
Gold, Magnetite, Garnet, Pyrite
HK Penn Quarry, (on the Mason/Dixon Line)
PA

Serpentine and associated minerals
Farm Trip near York, PA
"Devil's Dice" (limonite after pyrite pseudomorphs)

US Silica Quarry, Montplier, VA

Garnet, Rutile, Moonstone (Black, Gray, White), Quartz

Purse State Park, Charles County, MD along the Potomac River

Sharks Teeth, Turritella, Patuxent River Stone

Odessa, DE - Private Farmland (clubs invited each year)

Petrified Wood, Jasper, Arrowheads Delaware & Chesapeake Canal, DE

National Limestone Quarry, Mifflinsburg, PA

Calcite, Cellitite, Travertine, Flourite, Wavealite

Calvert Cliffs (Multiple Locations) along the Chesapeake Bay

Sharks Teeth, Fossils, Sea Glass, Patuxent River Stone

Chestnut Ridge, Washington County, VA

Quartz Crystals

Rose River, Madison County, VA

Unakite, Blue Quartz

Morefield Mine, Amelia, VA

Amazonite, Topaz, Smoky Quartz, and more

NEWSLETTER

Continued monthly editions of the **ROCK TALK** were published with prior meeting minutes, recent trip reports, mineral related news articles, and challenging WORD SEARCHs.

SECOND ANNUAL SHOW

The Second Annual Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Show held at the Old Waldorf School had another successful year. The customer base was consistent with the prior year, but all vendors were pleased with the turn out. **Next show will be 05 OCTOBER 2024 at the Old Waldorf School.**



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2023/4 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
19 DEC 2023	Holiday Party	POT LUCK
26 MAR 2024	TBD	Vycki and Bernie
23 APR 2024	Quarry Safety, Rich Simcsak	Trisha Y.
28 MAY 2024	TBD	Teresa and Alton
25 JUN 2024	TBD	Kenny S.
23 JUL 2024	TBD	Kurt and Sue
27 AUG 2024	CLUB AUCTION	POT LUCK
24 SEP 2024	TBD	Jill
22 OCT 2024	TBD	Polly, Al, & Carole
26 NOV 2024	TBD	TBD
TBA DEC 2024	Holiday Party	POT LUCK

Program Volunteers, Dates TBD:

1. Kenny Jameson – Local Rocks and Minerals, i.e Patuxent River Stones
2. Kenny Sams – Opals
3. Diane Etherton – Maryland Geologic Provinces
4. Jill Lee – Summer Astronomy

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

17-21 January 2024—QUARTZSITE , ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Quartzsite Improvement Association; Quartzsite Improvement Association, 225 E Ironwood; Wed. 9-5, Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5; Free; Over 250 vendors in one location Full service dining options Daily Rockhounding trips; contact Nancy Nichols, (928) 927-6325; Email: Powwow@qiaarizona.org

24-4 January/February 2024 —TUCSON, ARIZONA: Annual show; JOGS Tucson Gem & Jewelry Show; Tucson Expo Center, 750 E Irvington Rd ; daily 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Registered Buyers: FREE - General Admission: \$20 - Proof of Military: FREE - Children: No Children Under 14; The show features a wide variety of products from a diverse group of vendors, including jewelry designers, manufacturers, miners, wholesalers, and jewelry liquidators from countries such as the US, Europe, Africa, India, Thailand, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Nepal, Poland, Russia, and more; contact Yelena Masenko, (213) 629-3030; Email: advertising@jogsshow.com; Website: www.jogsshow.com

27-10 January/February 2024 —TUCSON, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Adam Aaronson; Mineral and Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N Oracle Rd; daily 10-6; Free; Get up close to gigantic sea monsters and full-size dinosaur skeletons! The Mineral and Fossil Marketplace is growing. New container lot, large tent, and remodeled gallery host international fine minerals and one of the best fossil exhibitions in Tucson. Come find meteorites, monster crystals; contact Adam Aaronson, (520) 245-3052; Email: mineralfossilmarketplace@gmail.com; Website: mfmshow.com

2-3 March 2024—WILMINGTON, DELAWARE: Annual show; Delaware Mineralogical Society; Double Tree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202); Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5; Seniors (60+) \$5, Adults (18 - 59) \$6 , Juniors (12 to 17) \$3, Scouts in Uniform & Children under 12 Free when accompanied by a paying adult; Family Friendly show features educational exhibits of mineral, lapidary and fossil specimens; a roster of fine dealers of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry; raffles of interesting specimens and a children's area, where youngsters may purchase inexpensive mineral and fossil specimens; contact Christine Verdi - (Show Chair); Email: 1DMS.President@gmail.com ; Website: www.facebook.com/DEMineralShow

8-9 March 2024—RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA: Annual show; Leidy Microscopic Society; Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd, 916 Senator Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6; \$25 for half table ; \$40 for full table; visitors fee - \$5 on Friday, \$10 on Saturday and includes lunch; Micromount Symposium-two guest speakers, silent auctions, free giveaways, sell, trade, swap micromounts, lunch on Saturday included; contact Donald McAlarnen, (610) 247-5097; Email: donmcalarnen@outlook.com; Website: <https://leidymicroscopical.com>

16-17 March, 2024 - GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND. 58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show; Sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD. Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 11-5. Ages 12 and over \$6. Children (11 and Under) are FREE. Scouts in Uniform, 4H youth with 4H Identification are FREE. More info at: www.glmsmc.com

ODDS AND ENDS**ROCKCHASING.COM**

A site for all 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!! Highly interesting weekly emails have gem/mineral information and stories. Strongly recommend looking over this site and signing up for the emails.

Skull of 'sea monster' that lived over 100 million years ago found off UK's Jurassic Coast

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/skull-of-sea-monster-that-lived-more-than-100-million-years-ago-discovered-off-jurassic-coast>

**FACEBOOK Page Is Growing!!**

Kurt is maintaining 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.

ORION NEBULA SIGHTING

From Trisha Young

At Tuesday's meeting, I was (1) one of the (2) two who stayed back with Jill to look through the telescope. We saw the Orion Nebula she had mentioned in her presentation. It's not the greatest photo, but I took it on my phone through the telescope. She thought you may like to see it for the newsletter, if you wanted to include it.

The green dots in the picture are lens flares, but the white dots are stars and the cloudiness shows around it.

Trisha, Thank you for this photo. Jill's enthusiasm in Astronomy has "rubbed" off on some people!! Also it gave everyone a lesson in Greek Mythology!

My Trip to Townsend, Delaware to Hunt for Petrified Wood

Text and pictures by Renee Newquist

First, I got there early after a very lovely drive over long bridges and beautiful country. I found the field to be large and daunting since it was covered with corn fodder and ground cover with a few spots of open earth. I had a slow start as I was just looking up and down the rows of short stalks which remained after the harvest.



Finally, I started bending over and clearing the corn fodder with my hands and found some pretty cool rocks. I continued down the row and my fingers got so cold! But I pushed on. After about an hour of finding nothing notable I was disappointed.



Finally, I was still clearing as I went and there right on top of the ground was a piece that I knew in a second that it was petrified wood! So exciting!





Then about fifteen minutes later I found another very interesting piece that was square, but I could see the wood grain -- so cool. I then found a very small piece and was thrilled to have found it all. I called it a day soon after. Glad I went and so thankful to the SMRMC for making this possible!

Note from SMRMC Field Trip Chairman:

As you can see in Renee's pictures, the ground in this field was almost totally covered by post-harvest debris and weeds. Renee did a great job persevering. We will visit this site again in late winter/early next spring when the vegetation should be substantially reduced by overwintering wild geese and possible tillage of the corn stubble remains. I will also try to take our members to additional nearby locations to have an opportunity to find more petrified wood. Best, Dave Lines

PURSE STATE PARK VISIT

by Dave Lines

At our rock club meeting on Tuesday evening November 28th, the NW wind had been blowing for 2 days. I told everyone that during the winter, we would be announcing "short notice" local Fossil field trips if it looked like it was going to be a very low or blow out tide.



Well, I was pleasantly surprised at 8:00 o'clock the next morning when I checked the NOAA website [tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/waterlevels] which shows "Water Levels" in real time. I looked at 2 stations --- Solomons, MD and Washington, D.C. -- and both showed water levels already below "predicted levels".

That was the first time in months that the water levels had been so low. It had been Full Moon on Monday and that, combined with the higher barometric pressure and NW wind which had continued all Tuesday night, resulted in a very low tide. Even though the winds had died down and were beginning to shift to the south, I figured that the water level on the Potomac would remain low enough for the next several hours to find some fossils.



Since the predicted low in the Purse area was around 12:30 pm, I grabbed my hip boots, bucket, a heavy coat, hat, and warm gloves and immediately drove to Purse State Park (now part of Nanjemoy Wildlife Management Area). I arrived at the empty parking area around 9:15 am, put on my boots and headed down the walking path through the woods to the beach. Wow -- it was perfect --- the water was already way out. At 9:30 am, I snapped a picture with my cell phone (Aren't they great?) and started searching the beach.



Because I had to be in St. Mary's County by 2 pm, I spent just two (2) hours total looking. The pictures tell the rest of the story.



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange!

Tuesday December 19 @ 6 pm
 Old Waldorf School
 3074 Crain Hwy Waldorf MD

Bring a dish to share and if you wish to participate in the optional gift exchange, a rock/mineral/fossil related gift (approx. \$20 value).

Please RSVP to Sue Knower, saknower@gmail.com by Sunday Dec 17 with # attending and type of dish you are bringing.



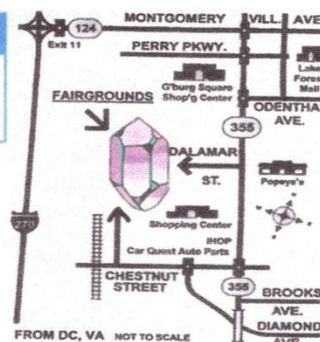
58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: March 16-17, 2024 Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 11-5

Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6
 16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877

Featuring:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Hourly door prizes | 20+ vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems, and jewelry |
| Gold panning | 40+ exhibits by club members, including junior exhibits |
| Fluorescent minerals | Two floors of everything mineral related |
| Raffle prizes | Mini Mine, free minerals, and activities for children |
| Free parking | Demonstrations of faceting, micromineralogy, jewelry making, and physics |



Children (11 and under) Free! Ages 12 and over \$6
 Scouts in Uniform Free! 4H youth with 4H identification Free!
 More info at: www.glmsmc.com

Show this flyer for \$1 off admission price
 (applies to each member in your group)



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 Tim Smith	
Programs / Vice President Jill Lee	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

