



# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## ROCK TALK

## JANUARY 2024

**26 MARCH 2024 at 1800 (6 PM)**  
Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL  
(next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)  
North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

### MARCH PROGRAM

Still too early for a "volunteer and program" to be named. But there are a few programs that are being discussed as the 2024 Kickoff Program. If you are desirous of doing a program, PLEASE contact Jill soonest!

### IN THIS EDITION

North Dakota Mammoth Find  
Arkansas Diamond Find  
WILDACRES 2024

### DECEMBER 2023 MINUTES

Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD  
December 19, 2023

No "official" meeting was held prior to the Club's Christmas Party with a Pot Luck Dinner spread. Many outstanding homemade main meals and desserts were available for sampling. And YES, many were tried by all! Thanks to all who attended and brought items for sharing. I know I did not go home hungry.

Santa was in attendance to assist with the gift giving throughout the night. With the "Chinese Gift Exchange" method of receiving gifts, the night was exciting with people finding a great present, but with the next person seeing what was picked, the item was taken and this rippled throughout the room with repetitive exchanges. Santa even had problems keeping his selected gifts but still went home with a very nice gift..

Holidays are over. Weather cannot decide whether it wants to shine, cloud over, rain, thunder/lightning, sleet, or snow individually one day or attempt to do it all in one day which is always highly possible in Southern Maryland. Collecting is hard to plan with the Maryland weather trying to decide what it want to each hour of the day..But the weather should not deter one. If you are able to collect - please send some pics and a short story of your day out. Personal stories are a publishing priority for the ROCK TALK.

Have a safe and happy collecting experience this winter. Soon Puxatawney Phil will give his best guess with the arrival of Spring. |

IN THE JANUARY 2024 ROCK TALK:	
TOPICS	PAGE
Minutes	1
Table of Contents	2
Programs / Refreshments	2
Calendar of Events /Odds and Ends	3
North Dakota coal miners unearth ancient mammoth fossil	6
Wildacres 2024	8
7.6 carats diamond found at the Crater of Diamonds	9
SMRMC Staff	12
Items Wanted/For Sale	12

2024 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
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, ie.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**

**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](mailto:advertising@jogsshow.com); Website: [www.jogsshow.com](http://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](mailto:mineralfossilmarketplace@gmail.com); Website: [mfmshow.com](http://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](mailto:1DMS.President@gmail.com) ; Website: [www.facebook.com/DEMineralShow](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.glmsmc.com)

**23-24 March 2024 - CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS** Connecticut Valley Mineral Club presents the 2024 Western Mass Mineral Show. Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 9:30-3:30 Admission \$5. Children 12 and under Free with paid adult. Scouts in uniform Free with paid adult. Free mineral specimen for children. — Featuring door prizes, vendors, enthusiasts, mineral experts, and collectors.

### ODDS AND ENDS

[ROCKCHASING.COM](http://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.

***EDITORS NOTE: I may forward an email from ROCKCHASING.COM if the article(s) are worthy for sharing with the club members. IF anyone gets to their "FULL POINT" with too much information - PLEASE tell me and I will stop it's dissemination to those members not wanting he email.***

**California lake is sitting on top of the largest lithium reservoir on the globe, official analysis shows - sparking race to extract \$540BILLION-worth of white gold**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12823783/california-lake-lithium-supply-white-gold-ev-batteries.html>

**Nevada lithium loop: Tonopah Flats site has more lithium than first estimated**

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/money/business/2024/01/04/nevada-tonopah-flats-site-has-more-lithium-than-first-estimated/72101154007/>

**Time to rock: 5 gem and mineral shows to check out in Tucson.**

Kino Gem & Mineral Show

22nd Street Mineral, Fossil & Gem Show  
Tucson Gem & Mineral Society's Gem and Mineral Show  
Tucson Artisan Workshops  
Tucson African Art Village

[https://tucson.com/news/local/five-gem-and-mineral-shows-to-check-out-2024/article\\_139b73dc-b94d-11ee-96e2-f7a73eb81f8f.html#tracking-source=mp-news](https://tucson.com/news/local/five-gem-and-mineral-shows-to-check-out-2024/article_139b73dc-b94d-11ee-96e2-f7a73eb81f8f.html#tracking-source=mp-news)

**USGS partners with Nevada to map critical mineral potential with cutting edge data in Nevada. Mapping effort will identify areas in the state with critical mineral resource potential that could strengthen the national economy.**

<https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/usgs-partners-nevada-map-critical-mineral-potential-cutting-edge-data>

**The Top Ten Dinosaur Discoveries of 2023**

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-top-ten-dinosaur-discoveries-of-2023-180983403/>

**Meet T.Rex's closest relative! Scientists discover the remains of a ferocious dinosaur that roamed New Mexico 71 million years ago**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12955379/Meet-T-Rexs-closest-relative-Scientists-discover-remains-ferocious-dinosaur-roamed-New-Mexico-71-million-years-ago.html>

**Radiation fears in the Grand Canyon: Uranium mine opens just miles from**

**national attraction - as experts warn it could pose health and ecological hazard**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12951601/uranium-grand-canyon-health-environment-hazard.html>

**Megalodon wasn't so mega after all! Ancient shark was SLIMMER than depicted in movies, scientists claim**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12990889/Megalodon-wasnt-mega-Ancient-shark-SLIMMER-depicted-movies-scientists-claim.html>

**Diamond Mines in Canada**

<https://geology.com/articles/canada-diamond-mines/>

**FACEBOOK Page Is Growing!!  
Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club**

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.



**The Diavik Stars of the Arctic:** In October 2018, Diavik announced that three spectacular diamonds would be sold at auction:

- 1) "**Vega of the Arctic**", a 177.71-carat diamond, reported to be "one of the largest and most valuable gem-quality rough diamonds ever produced in Canada";
- 2) "**Altair of the Arctic**", a 59.10-carat diamond; and,
- 3) "**Capella of the Arctic**", an extremely rare 24.82-carat yellow diamond. In an average year, the Diavik mine only produces about five large [yellow diamonds](#), representing less than 0.001 percent of annual production. Photo by [Rio Tinto](#).

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/north-dakota-coal-miners-unearth-ancient-mammoth-fossil-including-7-foot-long-tusk-exciting-find>

## North Dakota coal miners unearth ancient mammoth fossil, including 7-foot-long tusk: 'Exciting find'

The well-preserved, rare fossil is believed to

be at least 10,000 years old

By [Kyle Morris Fox News](#)

Published January 1, 2024 4:00am EST

A group of coal miners made a "mammoth" discovery this year while [working in North Dakota](#).

While working overnight at the Freedom Mine during the Memorial Day weekend, the miners uncovered the remains of an ancient mammoth that went extinct in the area roughly 10,000 years ago.

Understanding the importance of the discovery, which came in the early morning hours at the mine located north of Beulah, the miners roped off certain areas and called in the North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS), the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Led by paleontologists from the NDGS, a team worked for 12 days to excavate the streambed where the [fossil had been preserved](#) for thousands of years,

according to a press release this month from the NDGS.



Led by paleontologists from the NDGS, a team worked for 12 days to excavate the streambed where the remains had been preserved for thousands of years, according to the NDGS. (North Dakota Geological Survey)

More than 20 bones were recovered from the skeleton, including ribs, a shoulder blade, a tooth, and portions of the hips. But perhaps the most astonishing find was a seven-foot-long [mammoth tusk](#) that had been preserved since the Ice Age.

Clint Boyd, a senior paleontologist for the NDGS, told Fox News Digital that the tusk had been scooped up by the miners who were removing heavy rock from the area and placed into the bed of a dump truck.

"So when they dump the dump truck out, the very last thing that came out of the bed of the dump truck that landed right on top of the pile was that full, complete seven-foot-long mammoth tusk," Boyd said.

In an effort to preserve the fossil, Boyd said the team placed the bones into plastic bags to help retain moisture.



"We have all of the materials wrapped up in plastic right now because this Ice Age stuff is what we refer to as subfossils. It's not fully fossilized, there's a lot of organics still in it," Boyd explained. "The sediment is really wet when you first uncover it, and if it dries out too quickly, it'll just kind of crack and split and fall apart and kind of destroy itself."

In order to save the bones, Boyd said the team must soak them in a "special chemical compound" that "takes the water out of the specimen and then replaces it with this slower drying alcohol."



**Perhaps the most astonishing find from the fossil was a seven-foot-long mammoth tusk that had been well-preserved. (North Dakota Geological Survey)**

The soaking process to ensure the bones don't become brittle and crumble, Boyd said, could take a few months. "After that's done, then it'll be nice and stable," he said.

Boyd said the mammoth fossil is believed to be "the most complete one" that has ever been discovered in North Dakota and that it's "the first one that's come out of a coal mine."

"You get them out of gravel pits once in a while, but usually just like a bone or two, or like an isolated tooth. For whatever reason, we haven't had a lot of really [complete mammoth specimens](#) from North Dakota before, so this was an exciting find," he added.

The NDGS is also working alongside the Freedom Mine as the duo searches for somewhere to put the remains on display for others to see.

"We're looking at places where we could potentially get the specimen on display," Boyd said. "We're talking with the mine, trying to see if there's any place close by up there, maybe in the town of Beulah, which is the nearest town, or someplace like that. If not, then [we're] looking at where we could put it into the [state museum here in Bismarck](#), since we're only a little over an hour away from the mine."

"We'd like to get the fossils back on display as close to the area they came from as possible so that local people can see it and understand, you know, what it was and what else they could find out there," he added.

Mammoths roamed what is now known as North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, more commonly known as the Ice Age. They went extinct in the area around 10,000 years ago, according to the NDGS.



**Mammoths roamed what is now known as North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, more commonly known as the Ice Age. They went extinct in the area around 10,000 years ago, according to the NDGS. (Getty Images)**

A variety of mammoth species occupied the [land of North America](#), including the Woolly Mammoth and the Columbian Mammoth, which lived among saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Once the bones have gone through the cleaning process, paleontologists will be able to identify which species the fossil belonged to.

Boyd said he hopes the rare discovery will lead to others reporting their findings and keeping an eye out for additional fossils in the future.

"Hopefully this, you know, gets everyone to keep their eyes peeled and let us know if they see anything else out there," he said of the discovery.

### WILDACRES 2024

The EFMLS Wildacres Committee is happy to announce that registration for the May13-19, 2024, session begins on Monday, January 1, 2024. With a great lineup of classes and instructors and a well-accomplished Speaker-in-Residence, classes are sure to fill up. You may want to get your registration in early. Getting your registration in early gives you a better chance to get your first choice of the class(es) you want.

Classes this session are

#### Class Instructors

Beading	Cheryl Brown
Chainmaille	Marilou Hillenbrand
Geology	Rob Robinson
Intarsia	Chuck Bruce
Silversmithing	Richard Meszler
Soapstone Carving	Ken Valko
Viking Knit	Danny Griffin
Wire Wrapping	Jacelyn Campbell

A detailed description of the classes can be found in the attached. **NOTE:** Class fees are in addition to the registration fee. They are for supplies you will be using in class for your project(s). Instructors keep their costs to a minimum, usually at their cost or lower.

The Speaker-in-Residence will be Michael J. Colella. Mike is an artist of many talents and hobbies. His photography has appeared on the cover of *Lapidary Journal*; collection of sand is from all around the planet; has a collection of rocks and minerals; does suiseki stone and wood turning. He will share all of these topics with you in his talks. Learn more about Mike in his attached bio.



The Registration Form is attached.

About the cost—we try to keep the cost as low as we possibly can. Yes, \$475 does seem like a lot of money. However, considering what the fee includes, it adds up to a fairly inexpensive vacation. This fee includes your room, meals, class instruction, the opportunity to go on a field trip, and daily lectures by the Speaker-in-Resident (Mike Colella). All this plus being in a beautiful mountain setting, being with fellow hobbyists, renewing and making new friendships, and much more for an entire week. In addition, you get the priceless satisfaction that you learned a new skill (or improved an old one) and go home with more knowledge than you came with, and perhaps even a new-found friend. Where else can you go for a week and spend just \$475—hotels and meals will far exceed that amount?

If you have any questions about **classes or the facilities**, contact **Mark Kucera** ([mark\\_j\\_kucera@yahoo.com](mailto:mark_j_kucera@yahoo.com)) or for questions regarding **registering and accommodations**, contact **John Milligan** ([jmilligan@stny.rr.com](mailto:jmilligan@stny.rr.com)). For more details about the history or what Wildacres is, go to <https://efmls.org> or contact Mary Bateman at [mbateman1@verizon.net](mailto:mbateman1@verizon.net).

We look forward to seeing you at the Wildacres session, on top of the mountain, **May 13-19**.

<https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/man-finds-7-carat-diamond-arkansas-state-park-names-gem-fiancee>

**The stone, totaling 7.6 carats, was found at the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Pike County, Arkansas**

By **Andrea Vacchiano** **Fox News**

Published January 24, 2024 7:20pm EST

Is Arkansas just as magical as Paris? For one man, the answer appears to be "yes."

Julien Navas, a resident of Paris, France, ran into some luck as he unearthed a 7.46-carat diamond at the Arkansas Crater of Diamonds State Park earlier this month.

"[The park] is a magical place where the dream of finding a diamond can come true! It was a real great adventure," the Parisian said, as reported by Arkansas State Parks.

Navas had been [traveling across the U.S.](#)



**Julien Navas found a 7.46-carat diamond at Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park on Jan. 11. (Arkansas State Parks)**

After stopping to see a rocket launch in Cape Canaveral, Florida, he traveled to New Orleans.

While in the Big Easy, Navas learned about the Crater of Diamonds State Park and became intrigued.

"The park piqued his interest because he had previously panned for gold and searched for ammonite fossils," officials with Arkansas State Parks wrote in a press release.

"So he knew he had to visit the park while he was in the U.S."

On Jan. 11, Navas purchased a diamond hunting kit from the park and then [began his adventure](#) looking for gems.



Arkansas park officials say the gem is "the size of a candy gumdrop." (Arkansas State Parks)

"I got to the park around 9:00 and started to dig," Navas said. "That is back-breaking work, so by the afternoon I was mainly looking on top of the ground for anything that stood out."

After several hours, he brought his discoveries to the park's [Diamond Discovery Center](#) and found out that he was carrying a brown diamond weighing 7.46 carats.

"I am so happy! All I can think about is telling my fiancée what I found," Navas said to park officials.

The park got a lot of rain in the days before Navas' visit, which was a reason for the find.



Navas says that he plans to have the gem cut into two diamonds and gift them to his daughter and his future wife. (Arkansas State Parks)

"We periodically plow the search area to loosen the diamond-bearing soil and promote natural erosion," Assistant Park Superintendent Waymon Cox said in a press release.

"As rain falls on the field, it washes away the dirt and uncovers heavy rocks, minerals and diamonds near the surface."

Navas told park officials that he named the gem [after his fiancée](#), Carine. He plans to have the gem cut into two diamonds – one for his fiancée and one for his daughter.

"Navas' diamond has a deep chocolate brown color and is rounded like a marble. It is about the size of a candy gumdrop," the Arkansas State Parks' press release said.

Fox News Digital reached out to Navas for comment.



**58<sup>th</sup> 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



FROM DC, VA NOT TO SCALE

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

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](http://www.glmsmc.com)

**The world's biggest gold mines include:**

- Muruntau, Uzbekistan      Carlin, USA      Olimpiada, Russia
- Pueblo Viejo, Dominican Republic      Grasberg, Indonesia
- Cadia East, Australia      Kibali, DRC      Cortez, USA
- South Deep, South Africa      Lihir, Papua New Guinea



**Diamond Mines:** A map of Canadian diamond mines showing the approximate location of nine mines. Map by Geology.com and MapResources.



**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> Tim Smith	
<b>Programs / Vice President</b> Jill Lee	<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

