

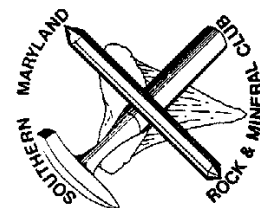
March 2008



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



Rock Talk



# Message from the President....

Thank you Mike for finding such a nice meeting place at Watkins while our facility is being remodeled. Sometimes a change such as this makes us look at our practices a little differently and can encourage changes. Carole the refreshments were quite delicious.

Bob has been busy typing in the changes to our bylaws as various members make recommendations for changes. He has been very prompt and efficient in this

effort. We should have copies available for the members within the next month or two. Thank you Bob! We all owe you thanks for all the work you've done on this project.

March came in like a lion with all of the storms and wind. Let's hope it goes out like a lamb. But it does bring spring fever in its wake. So it's time to dust off the tools, make certain the collecting buckets are empty and ready to go, and have found the various

wearing apparel that's needed for our activities. IT IS TIME TO GO ROCK/FOSSIL HUNTING. You may have the find of the year. Best luck and good hunting.

Want to also thank Dave for his presentation on quartz, its formation, many forms, beauty, and uses. It is a fun mineral to collect with its great diversity and uses. Has it found a home in your collection?

Lorna

## The 18th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show

March 29, 2008

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Admission: \$2.00 per person; children 6 and under free

Location: The Clearwater Nature Center, Cosca Regional Park, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD 20735

This show offers large selections of gems, minerals, fossils, and jewelry for sale by vendors and SMRMC club members. Come see cabochon making, faceting, wire wrapping, and beading demonstrations. Children will enjoy a jewelry making craft and activity.

For more information or to inquire about a vendor application, please contact Michael Patterson at 301-297-4575

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### Meetings

...are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

Clearwater Nature Center 11000 Thrift Road  
Clinton, MD.

For more information, call Michael at (301) 297-4575.

# 2008 Field Trips

By Dave Lines

Members were asked to vote on a selection of trips they'd like to attend. The following had 4 or more votes and are confirmed trips for 2008.

Mar 22 (date change) --- Chestnut Ridge, VA quartz xls

April ---- none

May 3-9 --- Hiddenite, NC emeralds, smoky quartz xls, garnets

Jun 21 (date change) --- Lake Anna (VA) Swap and gold panning in Contrary Creek

July tbd --- Rockville Quarry garnets, diopside

Aug tbd --- Vulcan Manassas Quarry prehnite, zeolites

Sept --- none

Oct tbd --- Herkimer, NY herkimer diamonds

Nov 8 --- Richmond Swap

Nov 16 or 23 (Sunday) --- Rockville or Manassas

Dec tbd --- local, short notice fossil trip

## Morefield Gem Mine Schedule

For More Information Go To : <http://www.toteshows.com/morefield.html>

### 2008 Spring Schedule

**Open to the public on Saturdays Only**

**First Saturday open is April 12, 2008**

**Last Saturday open is May 31, 2008**

Eight Saturdays only

#### **Saturday Hours**

9:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

Gift Shop closes at 5:00p.m.

Tuesday - Friday = By Reservation Only

**Mine Closing Pending Sale**

**Clearance Sale Prices on Jewelry and Specimens**

**So Come One And All**

## SMRMC OFFICERS

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\*\*\*If corrections or additions are needed, please contact Rocktalk Editor

# Minutes...

Sandy Lyon

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This meeting was held at the lovely Watkins Nature Center due to bathroom construction at Clearwater.

Minutes for January were approved as written.

**Guests:** Nan Stout, Christine Cacic (geologist) and her daughter Aleksandra (future geologist!)

**Programs are needed for May and June! Call Polly to volunteer.**

## **Field Trip Report by Dave**

Dave passed out the voting results of the preferred field trips.

If the winds are correct, there will be a Fossil trip on the Thursday following the meeting, info to be emailed or given by phone for those who signed up.

Sign-up list was passed out for Chestnut Ridge March 22 (date changed to avoid Hunting season). Three other area clubs have been invited to join us for this trip.

Bob lead a field trip to Ligon Mine in Amelia, VA. Three happy participants found beryl. See the website for details on the trip.

President Lorna Larson complimented the look of the **RockTalk** and others agreed.

Bob has been updating the **website**. Visit it for nice photos & updates: [www.freewebs.com/smrnc/](http://www.freewebs.com/smrnc/)

Michael Patterson reported on the March 29<sup>th</sup> **Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show** and a new flyer was distrib-

uted. Members were encouraged to pass out as many flyers to friends and business as possible. Members who have attended 4 meetings are welcome to one free table at the show. Please sign up with Michael to be a vendor and to provide demonstrations. **Dues are due in April** at Clearwater Nature Center. Anyone not up-to-date with their dues will not receive a newsletter. Please keep you email address up-to-date with Michael and the Smartlink Program in order for information and the newsletter to be sent efficiently.

## **New Business and Announcements**

Lorna encouraged us to support the Rock and Mineral Stamp Proposal discussed in the January newsletter.

Construction at Clearwater will be completed before the March Show.

Thanks to Michael for finding us a nice substitute meeting location.

Polly has a new granddaughter Megan Eryn Gandy - MEG and she has red hair!

Montgomery Gem and Mineral Club is having their 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Show on March 15, 10 - 6pm and 16, 10 - 5pm at the Montgomery County Fair Grounds. This great show has 25 display cases, many great vendors and cabbing machines for public use with instruction.

Dave will provide a Mineral Display at the La Plata Library during the month of March to advertise our Show.

A brief meeting of the Club Guidelines Committee was held just prior to refreshments.

Thanks to Carole for the refreshments.

## **The Program** was on **Quartz by Dave Lines**.

Many samples of Si O<sub>2</sub> were passed around and shown to the group around a long table. Agates, jasper, quartzite, petrified wood, massive or vein quartz are all types of quartz. This common mineral comes in almost all colors, various shapes and sizes. He demonstrated that two surfaces of quartz when rubbed together produce enough electricity to glow in the dark. Some quartz is formed by hot water dissolving silica dioxide and if there is space, a crystal is formed. We found his talk to be informative and interesting and these were just a few of the highlights. Thanks, Dave.

# Aquamarine and Bloodstone-March's Birthstones

By Lorna Larson

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Since I can remember, Aquamarine has been the birthstone for March with bloodstone being an alternate. In the past few years, I have noticed that several jewelry stores have used blue topaz as an alternate also; however, it has no history as such.

Aquamarine belongs to the beryl family along with the emerald. Its name is based on Latin meaning "water of the sea" due to its sea water color. The pigment is due to iron so the color varies from shades of light to dark blue to blue green to green. A lot of the aquamarine available in the jewelry stores have been heat treated. An irradiation treatment produces a very striking blue aquamarine called Maxixe, but the color is not stable. It has a hardness of 7.5 - 8, makes a durable jewelry stone, forms hexagonal crystals, and has been found in Maryland. The synthetic aquamarine is actually an aqua-colored synthetic spinel as it is not economical to actually synthesize an aquamarine.

Sailors used the aquamarine as a talisman, and tradition indicated it could be used for thirst. Kunz believed that the two "shoham" stones the Jewish high-priest wore on his shoulders were also aquamarines. What I found interesting was that the first time I found mention of aquamarine as a birthstone was the list approved in Kansas City by the National Association of Jewelers in August 1912 listed bloodstone as THE birthstone with aquamarine as an alternate. Prior to that, the Jews, Romans, Isidore Bishop of Seville, Arabians, Poles, Russians, Italians and the 15th to the 20th century listed bloodstone or jasper as the birthstone.

Bloodstone (heliotrope) may frequently be called jasper, but it is a green chalcedony with bright red spots. I have been told that occasionally it can also have yellow spots. The green is due to chlorite and iron; the red, iron so iron would also provide the yellow. It has a Mohs hardness of 6.5 - 7 and has a long tradition of use for many different functions. In Germany, it is called "bluestone" because hematite is referred to as bloodstone.



During the Middle Ages, bloodstone was thought to stop hemorrhages. Apparently there are several recorded instances in which bloodstone had checked severe hemorrhages. The red spots were the blood of Christ, the stone could cause thunderstorms, and that it preserved the faculties and bodily health; however, if one dreamed of bloodstone it meant distressing news. The names of Belle and Benjamin have been assigned the bloodstone. There is a Leyden papyrus that praises the bloodstone excessively. For instance, the wearers receive what they ask for, their words will be believed, it soothes the wrath of authorities, opens doors and breaks bonds/stone walls. Don't know about you, but I'm still waiting for some of these occurrences when I wear bloodstone.

*Photographs of stones from <http://www.gemstone.org/index.html>*

# Meet the Member

Submitted by Carole Raucheisen

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**Name:** Polly Zimmerman **Area live in:** La Plata

**Place of birth:** Akron, Ohio **Occupation:** Retired teacher

**Number and ages of children:** 3 grown children: Michael, David, and Sharon; 4 grandchildren ranging in age from newborn to 11 years old

**How became interested in rocks/minerals/fossils:** Polly's interest in earth science led to a keen interest in gems while living in Thailand, especially wearing them. She particularly liked Jade, and collected quite a few specimens while there. Her interest continued when she came to Maryland, and while buying flowers in Old Towne Alexandria, she met Dave Lines. And, we all know the rest of the story.

**How long a collector:** Polly has been collecting minerals since living in Thailand, and has been collecting fossils for about 20 years.

**What you like to collect:** Jade, and everything else. She likes new and different things, and likes to go to different places to collect.

**Favorite find and how found:** The rare soft-bodied, early jelly fish she found alongside trilobites at the U-Dig-It Quarry in Utah last summer.

**Favorite Rock Club experience:** Going down into the Moorefield Mine, but heartbroken because she couldn't grab something nice off the wall.

**Funniest Rock Club experience:** Being given a lesson on the proper use of a sledge hammer at Meckley Quarry in Pennsylvania by a very funny and entertaining rock collector from Indiana.

**Most memorable field trip:** Hiking up Chestnut Ridge. Because of asthma, she didn't make it on the first trip. So when she successfully got to the top on the second trip, she considered it "real feat."

**What you have gained from the Rock Club:** Made lots of new friends and collected lots of new specimens that she enjoyed sharing with her students and fellow teachers.

**What you would still like to find/collect:** A Herkimer Diamond and other gem-quality minerals.

**Other interests:** Kayaking, fly fishing, gardening, and grandkids.

# Fossils on the Chesapeake Bay

By Sandy Lyon



At noon on Thursday Feb 28, 4 members of our Club, Dave, Ralph, Al and Sandy met Flo Streat, a long time member of the club, for a Fossil Trip on the Chesapeake Bay. Dave provided the directions and Flo provided the parking areas for two nearby sites. The wind was blowing and the tide was out so the day was ideal, so to speak! We were all bundled from head to toe for the 32 deg. day with knee boots and buckets. Al carried the best light weight scooper and seemed in the beginning of the trip to be heading for the far shore!

We also went to Calvert Beach a few miles south of Flo's. These are a sampling of the fossil shells that Sandy found. The large fan shaped shell is a pecten, the one on the bottom left is a barnacle, & on the top right is an fossil oyster. Some of the other items were bone, coral, sand dollar pieces, snail shell, clams, cuahog clam, cup and saucer lipett and the smallest dark round shell is a rare brachiopod.

A special THANKS goes out to Flo for showing us these great sites and identifying all these fossils.



These sharks teeth were found by Dave on the beach of Western Shores Estates in Port Republic where Flo lives. Ralph found the longest, a 2" mako shark tooth.

## Other Club Shows in the Area

From EFMLS Feb-Mar Newsletter

March 28- 30: Atlantic Micromounters Conference hosted by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. Info & Registration <central\_office@amfed.org>.

March 29-30: 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock & Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Av; Sayre, PA  
April:

April 19 – 20: Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Monongahela Rockhounds. Sky View Fire Hall; West Mifflin, PA.

April 26-27: 36<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, NJ Earth Science Assoc. & Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Franklin School/Washington Av; Franklin, NJ.

# Visiting Dinosaurs in Spain

Written by Bill Gilbert for “The Collecting Bag”; Submitted to SMRMC by Dave Lines

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Hola! I know it has been awhile since I have last written an article for “The Collecting Bag”. This has certainly been a very busy year with the surgery on both my hips and the job relocation in Spain.

I had the opportunity to visit a dinosaur museum that is in the same region of Spain where I live. This region is called Asturias. It is very hilly and mountainous area that is buffered by the Bay of Biscay on the north side. The museum is called MUJA – Museo Del Jarasico de Asturias. The museum is located between the towns of Colunga and Lantres. The museum is about 1.5 hours drive from where I live at Gijon. This coastal area of San Telmo is known as the “Dinosaur Coast”. The museum itself was built in the shape of a three-toed dinosaur footprint. It is pretty impressive.

The museum has basically sectioned off with displays from the following time periods:

Pre-Mesozoic, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Post-Mesozoic and Asturian Jurassic. I am certainly not a dinosaur expert, but this museum was awesome. Upon approaching the museum, there were life-sized models of dinosaurs on the outside lawn. The cost of admission was about 5 euros.

Inside the museum, there were several large dinosaur displays of the bones put together and then behind it a large mural that showed how that particular dinosaur would have looked and its surroundings. An example of this was the Tyrannosaurus Rex display. It had two of these dinosaurs, one standing upright and the other down on an attack posture. Behind them was this giant mural depicting how they would have looked. There was also a large slab of fossilized mud that had actual dinosaur footprints.

Although the descriptions at each of the displays were in Spanish, it didn’t take much effort to appreciate the grandness and the detail shown at this museum. The museum had a gift shop with books, replica fossils and dinosaur models to purchase. One thing to note in Spain, you cannot collect fossils there. There is another museum with the cave with early man’s paintings, but that is another story. I hope you like the pictures!

More adventures to come! I have the same email – [billis4rox@comcast.net](mailto:billis4rox@comcast.net). Please email me if you have an chance!





# ROCKTALK

Clearwater Nature Center  
 Maryland-National Capital Park &  
 Planning Commission  
 11000 Thrift Road




**[ We're on the web: [www.freewebs.com/smrmc/](http://www.freewebs.com/smrmc/) ]**

## Message from the Editor

I am not going to be at March's meeting as I will be on a Spring Break trip to North Dakota. I think I have my head backwards, because normal people go where it's warmer for Spring Break! But, I can't pass up an opportunity to go home!

I appreciate all of the articles and pictures being submitted for the Rock Talk. Your efforts make the newsletter more meaningful and it's made my job much easier.

Remember, we still need Programs for May and June! Contact Polly if you have something you'd like to present to the group. It can be as simple as a great video everyone would enjoy or educational like Dave's Quartz presentation last month. That was awesome! I know I learned a lot and those kinds of things get me pumped out and want to go on a trip tomorrow! Thanks for that Dave!



### Bob's Puzzler

You are at a stream with one 7-gallon bucket and one 13-gallon bucket.  
 You must take exactly 5 gallons of water back to your campsite.  
 How do you do it?

Send your solution to Bob at [bob.davidson@walshgroup.org](mailto:bob.davidson@walshgroup.org)

### PROGRAMS/ REFRESHMENTS

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| March     | Program-Sam Lyon-Flintknapping<br>Refreshments-Sandy Lyon  |
| April     | Program-Ralph Gamba-Goedes<br>Refreshments-Diane Porter    |
| May       | Program-_____<br>Refreshments-Mike and Faith Antonioni     |
| June      | Program-_____<br>Refreshments-Larry O'Callaghan            |
| July      | Programs-Diane Porter<br>Refreshments-Tom and Cobb Allison |
| August    | Annual Auction and Potluck                                 |
| September | Program-_____<br>Refreshments-Ralph Gamba                  |