

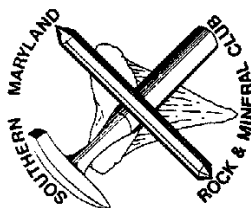
February 2009



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

Are you ready for our annual Rock Show on Saturday March 28th, 2009? I'm not. There are a host of things to be done, and I'm not sure I even know all of them. If you were at our last meeting on February 3rd, 2009, you know we formed a small committee of members to help get our show off to a good start. My experience with the show is rather limited, as I only attended the show once, two years ago, and that was briefly as a tourist. I had no part in the set up, tear down, logistics, advertising, etc. that goes into the making of a great show. And now I am in charge of the upcoming show. So I need your help. We need volunteers to help with the show.

We have two more

club meetings before the rock show, the 24th of Feb and the 24th of March. The best thing would be to attend one or both of those meetings so we can sign you up to some rock show task. But we can also do this by phone or email. If you can help, please do! I realize that if you are vending at the show you will pretty much be stuck at your table all day. That's ok; vendors are what make our show work. Hopefully we will have folks available to help you load and unload your vehicle (did I mention that we need volunteers?).

The good folks at the Nature Center have traditionally run these shows (I am told), but I do not know what they have and have not done. Hopefully we can clear this up at

the Feb 24th meeting. I think that the dealer unloading traffic jam can be mitigated by having dealers unload Friday March 27th in the afternoon and evening. I plan on being there Friday evening to give them a hand- will you help me?

We will probably need some sort of traffic cop the day of the show, to make sure all the loading and unloading goes smoothly. During the show we will need volunteers to pull door prizes, sign up new members, log in show attendees, help the dealers, give demonstrations, and the list goes on. If you are not planning to vend at the show, please consider attending and volunteering (even just an hour) to help make it a better experience for everyone.

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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.

...President's Message

CONTINUED

As you read this, the show is probably 5-6 weeks away, and that may seem like a long time. Believe me, it isn't. There are things that we need to do NOW to help make this show a success. Advertising is one. Flyers were passed out at the last meeting, and distribution is in progress. If you didn't get any to post, come to the next meeting and take some home with you. We need someone to take on the job of contacting all the local/state papers to get our show listed in their calendars. There are many more things that need to be done, and I am finding out about more of them every day. Please come to our next rock club meeting and help us make this show the best one ever. —Alex Schuman

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

March 7-8 Stanton, DE Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical and Community College I-95, exit 4B, Churchmans Road. Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5. Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, juniors \$3, Children under 12 free with adult. www.delminsociety.net

March 13—The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Auction 7:30 pm (viewing at 7:00 pm) at Woman's Club of Catonsville. Items that can be found are gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment. Refreshments are available. Directions: Go West on Fredrick Rd. from I-695 approx. 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right & go 1 block to the Woman's Club; located behind ST. Timothy's Church.

March 21 (10-6) March 22 (10-5) - 45th Annual Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show. Sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg, MD. Adults:\$6, Under Age 12 - Free

March 28 Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club Show - Clearwater Nature Center, Thrift Road, Clinton, MD 10:00 to 4:00 Admission \$2.00, under 6 free. For directions, see <http://www.freewebs.com/smrnc/2009rockmineralshow.htm>.

April 17-19 Charlottesville, VA – Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry show Charlottesville National Guard Armory, 1640 Avon St. Fri: 10-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5 adults \$3 (good for all three days)

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

Minutes...

Polly Zimmerman

Minutes - January 27th cancelled due to ice storm

February 3rd

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

No secretaries or treasurer's reports were given

Membership

*New calling cards are needed with the time, date, and new website information.

*Only members are to be included on field trips. Do NOT invite guests.

Programs

*Please sign up to bring snacks and please help to find speakers / programs.

Field Trips

*Smithsonian Trip Feb.21st 11-3. Dave Lines is trip leader. Visit the gift shop half-price table for bargains.

*List of last years trips was discussed.

*List of possible trips was shared and members are asked to look over. Members will be asked at Feb. meeting for preference.

*Trip reporting must be in the newsletter in order to comply with EFMLS insurance. Only trips that are reported and those who attend and listed in the newsletter will be covered.

Webmaster

*Discussion of security in putting e-mail addresses and phone numbers on the website.

Old Business

*Rock and Mineral show was discussed in some detail.

Publicity; List of those attending this year for next year's contacts;

Everyone needs to take part; David and Michael to discuss more details.

New Business

*Sandy Lyon was given Honorary Membership.

*Name tags for all members for meeting.

*Children's program was tabled until after the show.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Program cancelled until next month in lieu of "Rock Auction". Groups of rocks were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Money went to the club treasury. Great Fun!!

A Warm Quiz for a Cold Day

By Ralph Gamba

Ok, folks, it's quiz time. What mineral is in almost everybody's home but no one has it in his or her collection? Here are a few hints:

Color: White, pale blue, greenish blue, clear

Fracture, brittle, conchoidal

Hardness: 2.5

Cleavage: None

Luster: Vitreous, dull

Habit: Crystalline - Coarse - Occurs as well-formed, coarse sized crystals.

Dendritic - Branching "tree-like" growths of great complexity

Massive – Granular

Crystal system: Hexagonal

Locality: Worldwide, too numerous to mention. Yes, it can be found in Maryland.

Density: 0.9167

Dana Class: 4.1.2.1 – simple oxides

Strunz Class: IV/A.01-10 - Oxides

Molecular weight - 18.02

Industrial uses: cooling, recreation

This mineral has been featured on a number of United States postage stamps – Scott's Catalog 1146, and 4101 through 4116.

Give up yet? Have you gotten the answer? One more hint:

Chemical formula: H₂O

H₂O? Water? Water is a mineral? No, water is not a mineral.

The answer is "Ice". Ice is considered a mineral.

So what is a mineral? The definition of the term "mineral" has evolved over time.

Webmineral.com lists a number of definitions:

"A mineral is an element or chemical compound that is normally crystalline and that has been formed as a result of geological processes" (Nickel, E. H., **1995**).

A Warm Quiz for a Cold Day

CONTINUED

"Minerals are naturally-occurring inorganic substances with a definite and predictable chemical composition and physical properties." (O' Donoghue, **1990**).

"A mineral is a naturally occurring homogeneous solid, inorganically formed, with a definite chemical composition and an ordered atomic arrangement" (Mason, et al, **1968**).

"These... minerals ...can be distinguished from one another by individual characteristics that arise directly from the kinds of atoms they contain and the arrangements these atoms make inside them" (Sinkankas, **1966**).

"A mineral is a body produced by the processes of inorganic nature, having usually a definite chemical composition and, if formed under favorable conditions, a certain characteristic atomic structure which is expressed in its crystalline form and other physical properties" (Dana & Ford, **1932**).

"Every distinct chemical compound occurring in inorganic nature, having a definite molecular structure or system of crystallization and well-defined physical properties, constitutes a mineral species" (Brush & Penfield, **1898**).

Based on these definitions, does ice qualify as a mineral? Ice is an inorganic chemical compound, containing hydrogen and oxygen. It is naturally occurring – some fell from the sky just this morning. It is formed from a geological process, freezing, just like the way other minerals form. It has definite chemical and physical properties as listed above.

Water, being a liquid, does not qualify as a mineral because it is not a solid. It lacks a crystal structure. The same can be said for liquid mercury.

Webmineral.com and mindat.org has more information on this mineral, including beautiful images of ice.

So if you want to add ice to your collection, webminerals.com offers a label:

Ice
H ₂ O
Dana No: 4.1.2.1 Strunz No: IV/A.01-10
Locality:
Notes:

Ice. I index of Mineral species. Webmineral.com. <http://webmineral.com/data/Ice.shtml>

What is a mineral? Webmineral.com. http://webmineral.com/Mineral_Definition.shtml

Mindat.org. <http://mindat.org>

I Am A Rock, A Rock Collector

By Ralph Gamba

I Am a Rock A Rock Collector

Based on the song "I Am a Rock" by Paul Simon

A warm spring day; a sunny Saturday morning
I go for a drive
And riding down the road, searching for a lode to add to my little pile of gold
I am a rock, a rock collector

I bring my tools, hammers, picks and chisels
And my safety equipment
I fill up all my holes, clean up all my trash
I leave the site cleaner than when I came
I am a rock, a rock collector

I have shelves, to display my collection.
I've added special lighting
How I love to gaze upon the beauty
And the wonder that come from God's earth
I am a rock, a rock collector

I have my books and magazines for study
Learning is a priority
The more that I learn, the more I enjoy;
And the more I enjoy, the more I learn
I am a rock, a rock collector

May your collecting not be in vain, and your crystals always shine

Possible 2009 Trips

By Dave Lines

As of 1/27/09

<i>Trip #</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>What we will look for</i>
1	NC	1. Crabtree Emerald Mine	emeralds, school
2		2. Little Pine Garnet Mine	almandine garnets
3	SC	1. Antreville	quartz --- amethyst, smoky, skeletal
4	GA	1. Graves Mtn	rutile, iridescent hematite
5	Del	1. C&D canal spoils	fossils
6	PA	1. Big Hill tailings pile	magnetite, various minerals
7	MD	1. Rockville quarry	garnets/ various minerals
8		2. Purse SP	fossils (teeth, turritella)
9		3. Ches Bay	fossils
10		4. Breezy Pt.	small teeth
11		5. Rock Run	gold panning
12	VA	1. Rose River	unakite
13		2. Ligon Mine	beryl, school, star quartz
14		3. Morefield mine	complex pegmatite minerals
15		4. ? Creek	complex mica books
16		5. Contrary Creek	garnets, magnetite xls
17		6. James River	fossils
18		7. Willis Mtn	kyanite, related minerals
19		8. Vulcan Manassas Quarry	zeolites
20		9. Belmont Quarry (Staunton)	calcite

Trips will be scheduled as far in advance as possible and we will try to announce at club meeting the month before a trip. Trip sign-up sheets will be passed around at club meetings and emails of trip details will be emailed to all who expressed interest. For insurance purposes, ONLY Club Members with PAID UP DUES will be allowed to participate in trips --- no guests, please.



ROCKTALK

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



We're on the web:
www.freewebs.com/smrmc/

Message from the Editor

Happy February everyone! I hope you are all staying warm.

I have to express my delight with the poem submitted by Ralph this month. He was the only one to answer my challenge. If you come up with a poem at any point during the year, please submit it. We could all use something a little different. Take a look at this month's challenge. If poetry isn't your thing, maybe this month's challenge will inspire a contribution to the newsletter.

My only big request is if you are submitting articles that you have read from a magazine and you would like everyone else to get a chance to experience it, please type up a summary of the article and email it to me. It is truly the

easiest way to get a magazine article into the newsletter, even if permission to reprint has been given.

Another reminder that the rock show is coming! As club members, we all have a role to play, even if it's a small one. Please come to the meeting ready to contribute somehow to our annual event next month.

Please remember that this is your newsletter and if you're interested in something, chances are others are too. Ask questions, find out the answers, share with the rest of the club. We're all in this together.

PROGRAMS/ REFRESHMENTS

February	Program: Bob Davidson Refreshments: Tom and Cobb Allison
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	Annual Potluck and Auction

February's Newsletter Challenge:

Drawings/Sketches - There are many artists out there who are capable of capturing the wonder of rocks, minerals, and collecting. This month's challenge goes out to the artists in the club. Draw something and submit it to the newsletter so we can all enjoy your talent! Scan and send your drawings to rocktalkeditor@yahoo.com or give them to me at our meetings!