

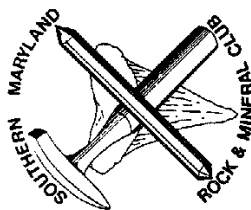
April 2010



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



# Chestnut Ridge - Bountiful Crystals of Quartz

By Dave Lines

It seemed like just a few weeks ago that there was snow on the ground - yet, here were thirteen (13)\* rugged souls from the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club taking a one mile springtime hike up our beloved Chestnut Ridge in Bath County, Virginia in search of quartz crystals. This site yields abundant quantities of small single and double terminated, clear and milky quartz crystals in singles and as clusters weighing as much as can be carried back down the mountain. The size of these beauties ranges from tiny to nearly four inches long -though the average single crystal is about 1/2 inch diameter by an inch long and the average cluster weighs only a pound or so. The best crystals are found at or near the very top, although specimens of lesser size and quality (and quantity) can be found almost anywhere along the east side of the mountain.

The last Saturday of March was chosen for several good reasons - first, the snow had finally melted; second, the pesky insects and snakes had not come out; third, this was the last weekend before Virginia's spring wild turkey gobbler season, which lasts to mid-May; and finally, it was still cool enough to enjoy the strenuous hike. And, anyway, we had historically had experienced successful trips about this same time frame to this location about 10 times in the past 11 years.

This trip was like most of the others to Chestnut Ridge in that the attendees had a broad range of experience - from almost none to seasoned veterans. As trip leader, I explained in the safety brief that the rules were simple - no rolling of rocks down on others and if a rock slipped and started rolling, you should holler and let those below you know; I

would mark a trail with bright orange surveyor's tape straight up the mountain so each person could climb up and return at their own pace; dress lightly during the hike up and carry something like coveralls or a light windbreaker to put on at the top; take food and water with you; pack out all your trash; look out for each other. Overall, we had a safe trip - just a couple of minor scrapes and small cuts (quartz is sharp), so the trip was another success from my viewpoint.

The trip up hill always seems so difficult that we all want to quit at some point along the way. The thought... "This is just not worth it" ...creeps into our brains. We sweat; our muscles ache; our feet hurt; our legs feel like rubber; we pant for breath; we want to go faster, but our bodies just won't respond.

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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.

# EFMLS/AFMS News

Submitted by Jessica Thomson



This month's EFMLS newsletter mentions a great deal about the convention in March. New officers are discussed, winners of the bulletin contest, as well as web site contest winners.

Wildacres is discussed and a list of classes is given. An application for attending is also a part of the newsletter.



In this month's AFMS newsletter, the President-Elect introduces himself.

Also details for the 2010 AMFS, CFMS & NOC Show and Convention are given. The show is called Hidden Treasures and includes field trips as well as pirate debacle themed meals with a Mexican Fiesta at the awards banquet.

More information can be found at [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) and [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)

## Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

**April 24 – 25 2010** - The Bead Society of Greater Washington. Bead Bazaar. Saturday 10 AM – 5PM, Sunday 11 AM to 5 PM. Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Ave. Gaithersburg, MD off Highway 355 (Frederick Ave.) at Education Blvd. Admission \$7.00

**May 1 – 2 2010** - Primitive Technology Weekend. Oregon Ridge Nature Center, Cockeysville, MD. Call 410-887-1815

**May 29 2010** – Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Show, Ruhl Armory, Towson, MD 10 AM – 4 PM Free Admission. Ruhl Armory is on the east side of York Road just inside of I-695.

**June 11 2010** - Rock and mineral auction Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society, Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD 7:30 PM

**June 12 2010** – Lake Anna Region IV Picnic and Rock Swap. Lake Anna State Park, VA

**August 7 – 8 2010** - The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Washington D. C Inc. 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem and Mineral Show and Sale. Stone Ridge School, 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission Adults \$6.00, Senior Citizens \$5.00, children under 16 free with paid admission. Web Site: [www.GLMSDC.COM](http://www.GLMSDC.COM).

## SMRMC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:  
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Tina League

VICE PRESIDENT (Programs):  
Larry O'Callaghan

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

# March Minutes

By Polly Zimmerman

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Meeting was called to order 7:15 pm

**Secretary:** Minutes were approved as printed.

**Treasurer:** No change in treasury.

**Membership:** 2 new members joined but weren't present at the meeting. Several guests introduced.

**Programs:** Schedule is about full for the remainder of the year. Guest speakers can receive an honorarium instead of cost of mileage.

**Field trips:** Chestnut Ridge and Vulcan trips planned for next Sat.

Morefield mine trip planned for March 27<sup>th</sup>.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint trip with N.Va. Club to National Limestone Quarry.

April 18-24 New Mexico

April 24<sup>th</sup> Morefield /Possible Dobbin's Prospect.

Memorial Day weekend – Gold Festival Dillon Va.

Herkimer NY-Week of May 9th.

**Editor:** Need more articles with pictures. Any articles are great!!!!

**Web Master:** Check out the last 2 trips on the website. Also see the picture collage. Write a fun story for the website or the newsletter.

**Old Business:** All approved the ideas for the 2011 rock show.

**New Business:** Easter Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. Awards were presented to members of our club. These projects all appeared in our newsletter the "**Rock Talk**".

Trophy Awards: Junior Rockhound Science Report

**Treasures from the Smoky Mt. Region:** Jaret Williams

First Place Award: Small bulletins

**Rock Talk:** Jessica Thomson

First Place Award: Original Educational Articles

**A Warm Quiz for a Cold Day:** Ralph Gamba

Fifth Place Award: Original Non-Technical Articles

**The Curse of the Hope Diamond:** Jessica Thomson

Eighth Place Award: Written Features

**The Only Rock We Eat:** Carole Raucheisen

Honorable Mention: Written Features

**Field trip to Rockville Quarry: "97 Degrees in April":** Dave Lines

(This article appeared in the "*Collecting Bag*" Richmond Gem and Mineral Society-Dave is a member of both Clubs.)

Third Place Award: Poetry

**I am a Rock, a Rock Collector:** Ralph Gamba

Dave Lines also served as a Judge.

8:00 pm adjourned for refreshments followed by program.

Program: "Show and tell." Everyone who brought in something got their 2 minutes in the spotlight and were able to share a story about the find and why they brought it in.



# Footnotes from the Field

By Robert Miller

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On February 27, five members of the Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club – Dave Lines, Lorna Larson, Fotini Vourlekis, and Robert and Stephanie Miller – visited the Lora Robins Gallery at the University of Richmond in Virginia. The gallery’s web site describes it thusly: “As the University’s natural sciences and decorative arts museum, the Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Nature, with its collections of natural objects, cultural art and artifacts, and decorative and fine arts, holds over 100,000 pieces ranging from Jurassic dinosaur fossils to contemporary glass art by Dale Chihuly. Pre-Columbian vessels, ancient coins, Hindu art, and Oceanic art contrast with rare gems and minerals, prehistoric shells, coral, and fluorescent rocks. The collection of Asian art and artifacts includes more than 300 Chinese ceramics, spanning twenty centuries.

The museum began with the donations of longtime benefactor, Mrs. Lora Robins, in 1977. The original museum, which housed minerals, decorative arts, and shell specimens, was expanded and relocated in 1989 to its present location in a separate wing of the Boatwright Memorial Library.”



The gallery is in a gothic-looking building yet looks very bright and modern on the inside. There are several long display cases that house some very fine examples of minerals that had been found or mined in Virginia, such as specimens from the Amelia mines and from the Rutherford mines. There were also specimens from around the world and works of art made from minerals. One of the cutest artifacts (or oddest, depending on your tastes) was a small statue of Mickey Mouse carved out of a single piece of bright yellow sulfur!

I especially enjoyed the fluorescent mineral room. At the touch of a switch it changed from white light to bands of UV light, and cycled from longwave to midwave to shortwave. There are display cases on all walls of the room, and it was truly impressive to watch all of the minerals react to the UV light. One thing that made it even more im-

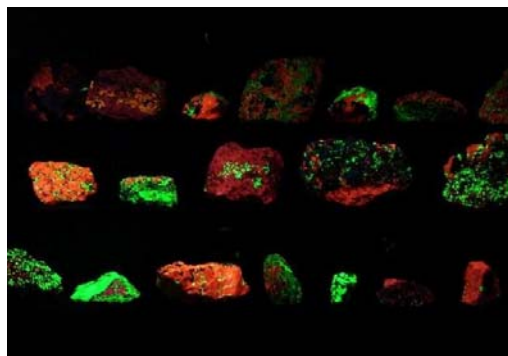
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# Footnotes from the Field

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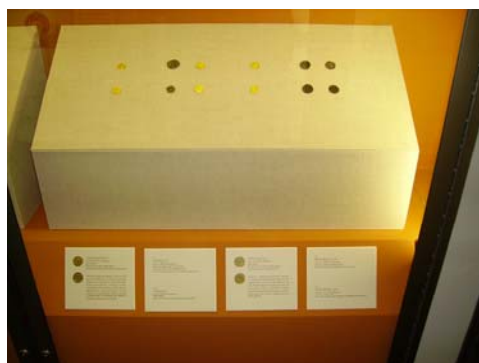
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pressive was that several of the minerals were from local mines and quarries, as well as having specimens from Franklin, New Jersey, which is one of the finest fluorescent mineral localities in the world.



The mineral collection overall is excellent, and it was made even more interesting by the stories Dave Lines told about collecting from the very locations represented in the display cases. His wealth of knowledge on local minerals and their localities made the trip educational as well as enjoyable.

In addition to the fine mineral specimens, the gallery also houses a collection of fossils, including a giant prehistoric fish head fossil, as seen in the group photo, that looks like he had a rather nasty disposition! Along with the fossils are several fine examples of corals, starfish, and shells of marine animals. And even better, there was a fantastic collection of ancient gold, silver, and copper coins, with posters describing how they were minted by hand, how they were weighed and assessed, and what the markings on them meant.



It was a wonderful and educational field trip, and one that was well worth the driving time. And best of all, the gallery is free to the public, being generously maintained by Lora Robins as a gift to the university.

You can learn more about the gallery at: <http://museums.richmond.edu/lrg/>

## Meet the Member

Submitted by Carole Raucheisen

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**Name:** James (Jim) White

**Area live in:** Upper Marlboro

**Place of birth:** Wash . D.C.

**Occupation:** Electrician

**Marital status/spouse's name:** Stephanie

**Number and ages of children:** None of the two legged variety.

**How became interested in rocks/minerals/fossils:** Can't remember a time when I wasn't interested in rocks. I have what's left of a (carpenter's) hand saw that belonged to my Dad which he says I destroyed as a small child by trying to saw rocks open with it.

**How long a collector:** casually-always, seriously-since about 20 yrs. old

**What you like to collect:** lapidary materials, somewhat more interested in minerals than fossils, though I enjoy both.

**Favorite find and how found:** the next one.

**Favorite Rock Club experience:** Vulcan field trip

**Most memorable field trip:** National Limestone quarry-for the drama, MEMORABLE, not necessarily good.

**What you have gained from the Rock Club :** Inspiration

**What you would still like to find/collect:** I've been trying to get to Utah for a few years now. But something always comes up. I would like to dig Dugway geodes (I have some that I bought, but it's not the same) and hunt on Topaz Mt. Also Oregon for thundereggs. Thundereggs and banded agates are my favorites, especially those from Northern Mexico.

**Other interests:** Sailing, Woodworking.

## Ruck's Pit

By Carole Raucheisen

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We went in January with Jan, Bob, and her son and his family. The older man is the owner giving us a demonstration on how to locate clams with calcite.



# Chestnut Ridge

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Never-the-less, everyone reached the top. Some did it in an hour and some took as long as 2 and ½ hours. And each person that did, felt a sense of accomplishment that only comes from achieving a difficult goal.

Once at the top - quartz crystals seemed to be everywhere. We were elated.

The attendees all found quartz - lots of quartz - and many found much more than they could carry back down. Deciding what to keep was the hard part. All the specimens looked good at first, but as the day progressed, we all started to high grade our finds with a more critical eye.

Throughout the afternoon, participants wrapped and packed their specimens and departed at various times. The last die hard rock hounds left the top about 4 p.m. - and reached the bottom of the mountain about an hour later. After saying goodbye to the neighbor who lived nearby the parking location, our final group of six decided to stop and eat somewhere together. We found an "all-you-could-eat" spaghetti benefit dinner at the Fire Department in Churchville on the way home. It was a great trip - perfect weather, plenty of finds, full stomachs, and tired enough to sleep like a log when we returned home.

\* Attendees included: Dave Lines (trip leader), David, Mike and Sami K., Lorna L., Harry and Tina L., Monty and Cheryl R., Mike and Pat S., John S., and Jessica T..



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## Message from the Webmaster

By Bob Davidson

*Have you ever wanted to email pictures to people only to find that they are too big to send or too large for your screen? Here's how to make them small.*

- From the **Start Menu** click on **All Programs**, select the **Accessories** folder and click **Paint**. This will load the Microsoft Paint Brush program.
- Now, click **File** then **Open**, and click on the picture you want to resize. The program normally defaults to your **Pictures** folder. (Note: If the picture you want to resize is in another folder you will need to navigate to it.)
- When the picture is loaded you will only see a portion of it on the screen.
- Click **Image** then **Resize/Skew**, and enter the size you want to reduce it to. For example, for internet pictures you will want to resize both the Horizontal and Vertical to about 40% or 50% of the original size.
- Click **Save As** and rename the picture if you want to keep the original. Otherwise, use **Save** to write-over the same file and change it's size.



# ROCKTALK

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

**Next Meeting**  
**April 27, 2010**  
**7:00 PM**

We're on the web:

[SMRMC.org](http://SMRMC.org)

**April's  
Refreshments/  
Programs**

## **Refreshments:**

Cheryl and Monty Reese

**Program:** Ralph Gamba will give a presentation entitled  
"Gold Fever - The History of the Gold Rush in Dahlonega, GA."

## **Message from the Editor**

By Jessica Thomson

Well everyone, it looks as though you came through this month. I actually had more content than I could squeeze into our newsletter this month! It was truly exciting to have to decide what to put in now and what to wait for next month. I already have a couple of things set aside! Hopefully this will become a trend!

I would like to issue a **challenge**. We all have our favorites: color, movie, song...how about your favorite rock or mineral? Write up a paragraph about your favorite and why it's your favorite and send it my way (with a picture is even better!). We can have a running piece on everyone's favorite. Maybe you have the same favorite as someone else or maybe you've never heard of it before. What a way to learn something new!