

Morefield Mine
October 27, 2012

On October 27, Lorna and Ralph traveled to Morefield Mine in Amelia, VA for a day of collecting. The weather was cloudy from hurricane Sandy, although we experienced no rain. The temperature was great for collecting.

Upon arrival, we noted a busload of school children of high school age. Also coming to the mine was a group of geology students from Mary Washington University.

We paid our fee and headed to collect. Lorna and Ralph gathered small pieces of amazonite and Ralph found chunks of pegmatite that looked promising for micros. There seemed to be less pegmatite than in previous trips. Lorna gathered dirt, Figure 1, to sluice.



Figure 1. Lorna bringing dirt to the sluice.

The first dumps came around 1 PM, Figure 2. Lorna and Ralph gathered amazonite and other collectables. Ralph found a 4 inch thick zinnwaldite book.



Figure 2. The Dump

The second round of dumps came at about 3:30 PM. Ralph found a 1/4inch monazite crystal in cleavelandite, a two inch muscovite mica book and nice amazonite. Lorna gathered more amazonite. One high school student found a beautiful piece of cleavelandite with monazite and tantalite, Figure 3. Sam Dunaway, the mine owner, noted that the bluer cleavelandite has more of the micros such as monazite and tantalite. Other people found topaz and beryl.



Figure 3. Student holding sample of monazite and tantalite in cleavelandite.

After a day of collecting, a group of us gathered to brag about our finds, Figure 4.



Figure 4. Brag Time.