

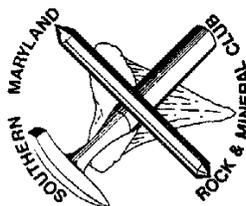
April 2012



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

Spring has sprung and it's time to get out into our gardens and plant some rocks.....yes, I said "rocks". A large number of rockhounds gather "garden rocks" when on a rock collecting expedition. They enjoy the eye-catching element that the rocks provide in a garden setting. While the aesthetic value of garden rocks is a bonus, the greatest value is the minerals that those rocks provide for that garden's soil. As a professional gardener and livestock owner, I am well aware of the variety of minerals that plants and animals require to survive and thrive. It's important for us humans to have mineral rich plants and food animals to consume and absorb those vital nutrients. With the exception of table salt, humans can only absorb minerals efficiently from the food chain (plants and animals).

In today's chemically induced society, it's easy to purchase and apply chemical fertilizers and compost "products" to try to re-introduce minerals into our depleted, over- taxed soils. While this has been standing practice for many years now, scientists and ecologists are beginning to see the error of our ways. Currently there are new laws being introduced in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed regulating the use of

these chemical fertilizers. Vast amounts of Nitrogen and Phosphorus are poisoning our waterways which is killing the natural ecosystem- fresh fish and crabs may become a thing of the past if we don't do something about it.

Fortunately there is something we can do about it. Rock Dust. In an article by Darius Vank'Rhys, April 2008, he describes the solution as a simple one. Rock dust is generally a by-product of the gravel industry-often free for the taking. For example it's usually stuck to our trucks, lungs and buckets when we head home from the quarry. It's also found in the bottom of creek beds and pond settlements. Microorganisms have an easier time accessing the minerals in the finer size of the dust. The Hardin Brothers in Australia have been using rock dust more than 20 years and have found less environmental damage, 25% higher crop yields, 20% increase in growth rates and 80% less fertilizer needed. Another benefit to rock dust is that it helps create more organic matter that helps to prevent soil erosion and conserves water.

In an article from Acres USA titled "Mineral Restoration and Utah Rock Dust", by David Yarrow, a young man named Jared experimented

with a "miracle" plant food named Azomite (an acronym: A-Z Of Minerals, Including Trace Elements) which is a powdered pink clay ground up from sea floor beds in Utah mines. It also goes by the name of montmorillonite ore. What makes Azomite so unique is that the ancient inland sea contained bacteria that ate the minerals and then excreted them in oxidized, hydrated and blended forms which became a microbial manure that accumulated on the sea floor.

This sediment has an abundance of over 60 elements, not just 3 or 4. Jared had amazing results with his experiments and concluded that rock dust is a natural and environmentally friendly way to remineralize our soils and our bodies. From a health care standpoint, if we can acquire the minerals that our bodies need to flourish, maybe we can dramatically diminish diseases like cancer and AIDS.

Just a little "food for thought"when you're out there collecting rocks, wait until you get home to clean off the dust and dirt- preferably in your garden...

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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 Dixon



EFMLS has an article from the Safety Chair about safety when using tools in the field. These are things we all know, but sometimes a refresher is a good thing. Check out page 6.

Did you miss the April session of Wildacres? Be sure to check out the September session and see what classes they have to offer!

For more information on any of these articles, visit www.amfed.org/efmls



The AFMS Safety Chair has an article about keeping safe with the weather. Using our technology today can make the difference between a successful trip and a failure.

There is also an article on page 6 about West Nile Virus. With the weather recently, there will surely be more “critters” to watch out for. This article is surely worth the read.

For more information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

Submitted by Ralph Gamba

Now through April 29 – Dinosaur display, featuring *Astrodon johnstoni*, Maryland's state dinosaur. 11Am to 4 PM daily. Montpelier Mansion 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708. \$3/adult; \$2/seniors ages 60 & up; \$1/child.

April 21 - 22 Bead Show. Richmond, VA. Richmond Raceway Complex Colonial Building., 600 E. Laburnum Ave. Sat and Sun. 10 – 5. Adults, \$5.00 Sat, \$.00 Sun. Children 12 and under free. www.beadshows.com

April 28 – 29 Franklin, NJ New Jersey Earth Science Assn. Sterling Hill mining Museum; Franklin School; 50 Washington Ave. Sat 9 – 5:30, Sun 10-5. Adults \$5.00, children 14 and under free with adults. 973-209-7212

May 5 -6 – Oregon Ridge Primitive Technology Weekend. 10 -4 both days. Contact Oregon Ridge nature Center, 13555 Bever Dam Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030. Call Tuesday through Friday 410-887-1815

May 18 - 20 Martinsville, VA. Martinsville National Guard Armory; 315 Commonwealth Blvd. W. Fri. and Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5 Free. www.toteshows.com

May 25-27 Salem, Va. Salem Civic Center, 1001 Boulevard Fri. and Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-6. Adults \$3.00 (3-day ticket). Children under 16 free www.toteshows.com

June 8 Auction. Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society. Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD. 7:30 P.M.

If anyone has information on any other local shows or rock events, contact Ralph Gamba at rgamba@verizon.net, so they can be included in this list.

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

Cover Photo Courtesy of Microsoft Office

March Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: March 27, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Guests were welcomed and introduced: Bob Elwood and Joe Mudd.

TREASURER: Same

MEMBERSHIP: not present

PROGRAMS: November 16th still needs a program.

April, June, September, and November still need people for refreshments.

Denise speaking on pearls next month.

FIELD TRIPS: **April 28, 2012**-Sterling Hill Franklin New Jersey Super Dig. Trip leader Gary Lohman. Bring membership cards.

May 12, 2012-Morefeild Mine. Advanced notice needed for going into the mine. \$12 for adults and \$20 for the tour of the mine. Open 9:30am-5:00pm.

March 28, 2012- John White at Baltimore Mineral Society.

April 27-29, 2012- Mountain Mushroom Festival. Kentucky Agate 3 day agate hunt. Bluegrass Gem and Mineral Club.

May- Herkimer on the week of Mother's Day

October 11-13, 2012- Mt. Ida

May 26, 2012- Reel Mine North Carolina Memorial Day weekend. Anna Baden plans on going and you would need to join magma online. (Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association)

EDITOR: Suggested calendar of field trips and list of program topics. Plan it out for the newsletter and website. We will be updating the email list for members. Bob will add upcoming field trips to the website and specify that you must be a member to attend trips.

WEBMASTER: Up to date.

OLD BUSINESS: Numbers for the attendance at the rock show- 602 paid and 640 total with free admissions.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe brought his UV light for people to see.

AJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 for refreshments provided by Tina and Harry, Chris and Mary, followed by geode cracking by Jim White and Chris Proctor.

Meet the Member

By Carole Raucheissen

Name: Michael Bolster

Area live in: White Plains

Place of birth: Philadelphia

Occupation: Civilian naval employee at Indian Head, Metal Parts Inspector

Marital status/spouse's name: Anne

Number and ages of children: Joanna 37, Rebecca 34, Mathew 30; and
11 grandchildren

How became interested in rocks/minerals/fossils: At an early age, Mike was curious about everything, but his interest in rocks and minerals really began with a 3rd grade classroom presentation that was followed by a visit to a rock collecting site. At a pay for pick site in Southern California, he collected his first agates.

How long a collector: When Mike grew up and left home, he left behind his rock collection. Unfortunately, it was later somehow discarded. He tried to interest his children into collecting, but was not successful. He started seriously collecting when he joined the club about 3 years ago.

What you like to collect: Gemstones, many of which he purchases. But he also enjoys collecting whatever can be found on local field trips. He has not been able to attend long-distance trips.

Favorite find and how found: Prosopite from Moorefield Mine. Mike also donated an unknown specimen to James Madison University. Tests revealed that its two main signatures were fluorite and prosopite.

Favorite Rock Club experience: Talking to other collectors in the club.

Funniest Rock Club experience: On his last trip to Moorefield Mine, the threat of rain kept everyone away except Mike, Ralph, Lorna, and Richard. They were the only collectors in the whole mine.

Most memorable field trip: Down into the Moorefield Mine.

What you have gained from the Rock Club: A lot of enthusiasm, comradery, and contact with other collectors.

What you would still like to find/collect: Tourmaline, even if its shorl. Also Herkimer diamonds and an arrowhead.

Other interests: Gemstones, gemstones, and more gemstones. In his collection, Mike has a faceted, blue, color-change garnet from Africa; a rough demantoid garnet; and a black opal sculpture from Lightning Ridge in Australia. Mike is also interested in lapidary work.

Backyard Find

By Cheryl Reese

BACKYARD FIND!

APRIL 13 AND 15TH 2012 UNDER A DOWNED TULIP POPLAR TREE

During Hurricane Irene this past summer, we had some tulip poplars fall down and I decided to try and knock the dirt off the root ball to see if it would rot faster. As I was digging and shoveling dirt into surrounding holes, I found a pottery shard. I volunteer at Jefferson Patterson Park, which is where all of Maryland's artifacts are conserved, so I took my shard there and was told it was the Buckley-type from the mid-late 1700's. It was produced in Wales or England. Buckley-type vessels are rare on Chesapeake sites dating before 1720's when they were heavily imported, and became rare again after the American Revolution



Pottery shards

DESCRIPTION

Made from mixture of red, yellow/white clay. If the lighter clay predominates the vessel fires to a light orange color. This variant has been seen in the Chesapeake sites. They are generally covered with dark brown to black lead glaze. Bowl forms are glazed in interior surfaces and storage jars on both surfaces.

Buckley vessels were not decorated, but throwing marks or ribbing are apparent as seen on the shard on the left. Rims of the utilitarian vessels are generally large and thick as seen on the shard on the right and left lower corner picture. Vessels range from tablewares such as cups, bowls,

pitchers, to large storage vessels, butter pots, milk-pans and cooking pots. The tablewares declined in popularity by the early 18th century and most Maryland finds are the utilitarian forms. It is thought that the shard on the right is from a milk-pan or butter-pot.



Note the thick rim on the piece on the right and on the left shard, the glaze is on the inside only, so it was probably from a bowl type vessel



Two pieces of glass, one of which on the right is a very rare piece of "black" glass with visible bubbles or seeds making it quite old and rare. Black glass (dark green) was used for spirits and medicine bottles in the 1700's



I also found a lot of brick which generally was brought here from England. I have now turned my backyard into an archaeological site and hope to find more treasures



ROCKTALK

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

Next Meeting
April 24, 2012
7:00 PM

We're on the web:

SMRMC.org

Upcoming Field Trips

By Ralph Gamba

Date	Place	Leader
April 28	Franklin, NJ	Gary Lohman
May 12*	Morefield Mine	Ralph Gamba
May 25 - 28	Reel Mine MAGMA trip	Anna Baden

* Date may change pending possible trip to Farmville for Amethyst

If you are interested in attending one or more of these field trips or need more information, please contact the trip leader.