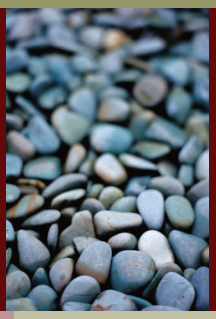
April 2013



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB

Rock Talk

Message from the President

Rich Simcsak

I want to thank all of the club members for their confidence in me to have the position of President of the Rock and Mineral Club. I truly hope I can do just as well as Tina did over the past 2½ years. Hers truly will be a hard act to follow. She and many others have offered their assistance to me when I am in need. Guiding the club to new and exciting times will be a total club effort.

With the Rock and Mineral Club having a new sister club organized at the beginning of the year, the Lapidary Club, we all need to look at ways to encourage a cross pollination of ideas and efforts between the two clubs. Many of us enjoy the weekend outings, finding samples for our collections, and using these samples in jewelry and lapidary arts. Field trips to the various collecting sites can produce quality material we all treasure since we found it ourselves. I encourage everyone to take part in these outings to increase the program's membership and recognition. This is one way of having members from both clubs begin sharing experiences that will grow not just our individual club, but both clubs.

I encourage all to begin thinking "outside the box" about how we can grow in knowledge and experiences to expand our club and eventually grow the Lapidary club as well. The goal of both clubs should be to grow and benefit from shared ideas and experiences.

See everyone on April 23rd!

Primitive Technology Weekend

Sat.-Sun., May 4 & 5
Oregon Ridge Nature Center
See page 8 for details

Inside this issue:

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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: (301) 297-4575.

EFMLS/AFMS News

Submitted by Michael Patterson

The EFMLS Newsletter this month has advice on spending a little to save a lot on safety, Eastern Foundation Fund news, and EFMLS Scholarship Foundation News. It also contains more Wildacres and Convention information, ways to get youth members more involved, and much more. Visit www.amfed.org/efmls

This month in AFMS news, there is an Endowment Fund update and list of AFMS Endowment Fund Chairs for each region. The April AFMS Newsletter also recognizes more outstanding members as Rockhounds of the Year and provides tips for conducting a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cleanup as part of a club field trip under the agency's guidance. For more information, visit www.amfed.org.

Upcoming Shows and Events

April 27-28: Franklin, NJ

41st Annual NJ Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society and the NJ Earth Science Assoc. Washington School, 50 Washington Ave, Franklin, NJ.

May 4-5: Pittston, Pennsylvania

Treasures of the Earth: 10th Annual Show and Sale. Organized by the Mineralogical Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Oblates of St. Joseph (1880 Highway 315). Sat. 10-5PM, Sun. 10-4PM. Adults $3, Children under 12, scouts and military (in uniform) free.

May 5: Silver Spring, Maryland

2013 Spring Mineral Auction, Gem and Mineral Society of Washington, DC. Preview 12-1PM, auction 1-5PM. Knights of Columbus, 9707 Rosensteel Ave., Silver Spring, MD. Auction points of contact:
Al DeMilo, 301-262-6014, abdemilo@verizon.net
Matt Charsky, 703-522-7415, matt2430@comcast.net

May 18-19: Leesport, Pennsylvania

45th Annual World of Gems and Minerals: Jewelry, Bead, Mineral and Fossil Show. Organized by the Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmer's Market (Route 61).

May 25: Towson, Maryland

24th Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show organized by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd (I-695, exit 26B), Towson, MD. Saturday, 10AM–4 PM.

If anyone has information on any other local shows or rock events, contact Ralph Gamba at rgamba@verizon.net.

SMRMC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Richard Simcsak

VICE PRESIDENT (membership):
Polly Zimmerman

VICE PRESIDENT (Programs):
Penny Masuoka

VICE PRESIDENT (Field Trips):
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WEBMASTER
Bob Davidson

EFMLS Representative
Carl Miller

***If corrections or additions are needed, please contact *Rock Talk* Editor

Cover Photo Courtesy of Microsoft Office

March Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: March 26, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm—Rick Simcsak

New members: Karen Thomas, her son Nathan, and brother Chris Russell. They saw a flyer at the Accokeek library. Anita, Lovell, and Zachary Walls learned about us from a Clearwater Nature Center flyer.

SECRETARY: Minutes approved.

TREASURER: Reimbursing Dave for the Alva Worthington memorial contribution on behalf of 60 members.

MEMBERSHIP: Polly still doesn't have the updated membership list so Bob will resend it tonight.

PROGRAMS: Tonight's program and refreshments are by Gary and Cindy Lohman.

We need refreshments for July and November and programs for June and November.

FIELD TRIPS: Jim isn't here tonight.

Bob—This past Saturday there was a trip to Vulcan Quarry in Manassas, VA. Plenty of people were there, good specimens, and a new side was available.

Faber Mine this past weekend. Dave collected Rhodonite. Fluvanna County, VA.

Still working on the **Utah** trip for late summer/fall.

April 3rd- family fossil hunting trip at Henson Creek.

April 13th- National Limestone Quarry

May 12th- Herkimer NY

EDITOR: none

WEBMASTER: Lapidary club will have wire wrapping in April. You can see how to do it on the web site, there is a link to the instructions.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:32.

Welcome, New Members

Anita Walls, Washington, DC
Zachary Walls, Washington, DC
Lovell Walls, Washington, DC
Tomas Tarr, Silver Spring, MD
Eleanor Bewley, Fairfax, VA

Rock and Mineral Quiz

Q: Pyrite and orpiment have both been called Fool's Gold. Orpiment is a compound of which metal?

Orpiment

- ☐ **antimony**
- ☐ **iron**
- ☐ **arsenic**
- ☐ **mercury**

Cabochon Creations

Mineral Quiz Answer: arsenic

EFMLS Annual Convention

Convention and Show Information:
EFMLS Annual Convention
Theme: Long Island Lighthouses & Geology
Friday, May 31st through Monday June 3rd, 2013
Long Island Sheraton - 631.231.1100
Hosted by Island RockHounds & Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club
www.islandrockhounds.org / www.suffolkgem.com

You are cordially invited to join the Island RockHounds and the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club in our first joint show and the first EFMLS Convention being held on Long Island! Our show is on Saturday, June 1st and Sunday, June 2nd from 10:00am – 5:00pm (both days). We presently have 28 vendors, children activities, seminars, and demonstrations and the EFMLS Annual Auction. A busy weekend that offers something for everyone!

Long Island is renowned for its beautiful beaches, from the rocky North Shore to the sandy South Shore. With our coastline there are many lighthouses! We have arranged a lighthouse tour on Friday for those of you who are interested! The island has also seen its share of geological activity, especially that of coastal erosion, which has changed our coastline a multitude of times, some of these events are ancient, but some even within the current inhabitants life times.

The Convention's host hotel, Sheraton Long Island, is centrally located at 110 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, New York. It is easily accessible by road, rail and plane.

By Highway: Located off Exit 53 of the Long Island Expressway (LIE 495) or Exit 46 of the Northern State Highway.

By Airplane: The hotel is approximately 12 miles from the Islip Macarthur Airport (LIMA) in Ronkonkoma.

By Rail: The Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), Ronkonkoma line, Brentwood station is minutes away.

The Long Island Sheraton has a courtesy shuttle available. The shuttle runs from 7:00am – 10:00pm and is available upon request. Call the hotel if you plan to utilize the shuttle from either the airport or LIRR Brentwood station.

If you are from the mountain areas, please consider visiting our beaches. If you are from the coastal states, please consider strolling along our North Shore. There are many quaint villages that had flourished during the maritime days. Some of our favorites are Port Jefferson, East Northport, Huntington, Centerport on the North Shore and BayShore and Sayville on the South Shore. There is so much to see and do on the Island, the twin forks, the wineries, museums, shopping and more! And how could we forget New York City, the city that never sleeps, is only a stone throw away.

Convention and Show Hotel Information & Reservation Rates:

The Long Island Sheraton, a full service hotel, has placed a number of rooms aside for participants of the EFMLS Convention. The EFMLS group rate is $139.00/ night plus taxes. When making reservations please mention the EFMLS to receive the convention rate. Reservations must be made by APRIL 30th to receive the discounted rate. The hotel has free parking: a coffee shop open at 6:30am – 1:00pm; a restaurant open daily from 7:00am- 10:00pm, and the Sprintz Lounge. There is also an indoor pool located on the first floor, and a exercise room. The hotel is pet friendly, allowing dogs, for a small pet cleaning fee.

Questions may be directed to Cheryl Neary: ciervo.neary@gmail.com or via cell: 516.449.5341

http://www.amfed.org/efmls/convention_and_show_information_for_the%5B1%5D%5B1%5D.pdf

Field Trip Report: Vulcan Manassas Quarry

March 23, 2013

by Bob Davidson

Seven members of our Club joined other rockhounds from the Northern Virginia Club and other Clubs for a joint outing. We arrived at the quarry at 7:00 AM for a safety talk by the Quarry Representative. After signing the liability waiver we proceeded into the quarry.

Stellerite, (photo by Bob Davidson)

For the first time, we were allowed to go through the West Gate where a recent blast had revealed a large deposit of Stilbite and Stellerite. There was plenty for everyone.

It was the first field trip for Jeff Quandt and the first time at this quarry for Rich Simcsak and Anna Baden. Rich and Ron Tonucci decided to work together and the last time I saw them they were removing rock from a three-foot deep hole.

Jeff Quandt (photo by Bob Davidson)

Ralph was working at the top of a large rock pile and Mary was wrapping his finds. He was having a very successful day. We left at noon. It was an enjoyable trip.

Field Trip Notes

No one from SMRMC attended the joint trip to the Kelly Bank mine.

Look for the National Limestone quarries Trip Report from April 13 in the May newsletter. Northern Virginia Club is trying to put together a trip to **Chesnut Ridge.** Several people had expressed interest in going to the **Rose River** in VA to hunt for Unakite.

Vulcan Manassas Quarry (photo by Bob Davidson)

SUPER DIG, Ogdensburg, NJ

Saturday, April 27, 9 AM-11PM

www.sterlinghill.org/superdig/index

Herkimer Trip

May 12 - 17

The Club has been going to the Herkimer Diamond Mine for the past 15 years or so. During that time, we have collected a lot of crystals. Some years we do very well and other years are not so good. The secret is to move a lot of the right kind of rock. If you can do that you will be rewarded. The days for this trip are flexible. A few people will leave on Sunday the 12th to avoid Monday morning traffic. But since it is also Mother's Day, Monday may be better for others. We'll probably return on Wednesday or Thursday or whenever you've had enough.

Transportation

You will need to furnish your own transportation or make arrangements to share a ride. Herkimer is about 400 miles (about 8 hrs.) from Washington.

From the Baltimore Beltway, exit on I-83 (North) toward Timonium. Take I-83 past York, PA to Harrisburg. At Harrisburg, take I-81 (North) to Binghamton, NY.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Take I-88 (East) about 50 miles to Oneonta. At Oneonta, take Rt. 205 (North) to Rt. 80. Turn right onto Rt. 80 and go about a mile to Rt. 28. Turn left onto Rt. 28 and go about 20 miles to Herkimer.

Herkimer diamond (photo by Beth Mays)

Where to Stay

Inn Towne Motel - 227 N. Washington St. Herkimer, NY - (315) 866-1101. Rates start at $54 for one person.
http://www.InnTowneMotel.net

This is where I always stay—not a fancy place but it's adequate. If you want something nicer, rates at the Herkimer Motel start at $84. You can also stay in Utica, 20 miles away, for about $75/day. If you are camping, stay at the Herkimer Diamond Mine and KOA—this campground is across the street from the mine. They have camp sites starting at $22 for a tent and primitive cabins from $55.

http://www.herkimerdiamond.com/

Where to Meet

The Herkimer Diamond Mine is located 8 miles north of Herkimer on Rt. 28. We will meet at the mine each day at 8:30 am. The mining fee is $11.00 a day.

Clothing you will need:

- Jeans or rugged long pants
- T-shirts and long sleeved shirts (to prevent sunburn)
- Steel-toed work boots
- Leather work gloves (the cheap gray kind work well)
- Sunglasses
- Hat

The weather is unpredictable. You may want to bring rain gear.

Mining

There are different ways to find crystals. The tools you will need depends on how you will be mining.

1. Sifting

You may need to move hundreds of pounds of loose rock to get to the rock dust and dirt that contain the crystals that were lost when other miners were breaking rock.

- Bring a flat shovel,
- A 1/8" mesh screen
- A whisk broom and dust pan
- A half gallon jug for drinking water
- Plastic bag or jar to hold your crystals

2. Break Pieces of Discarded Rock

As miners remove virgin rock they break it down to a point where they believe no crystals will be found. Many times they are wrong and you can find nice crystals just by finishing the job.

You will need:

- A 3 or 4 pound crack hammer
- A sledge hammer—12 to 16 pounds (I will bring several to share)
- Chisels (if you have to buy them, get a Chisel Point and a Flat Point with rubber protection guards from Home Depot)
- A file to sharpen your chisels (if you have one. Or you can use mine)
- Eye Protection (a lot of rock will be flying)
- A half gallon jug for drinking water
- Plastic bag or jar to hold your crystals
- A few plastic sandwich bags to hold small clusters to be assembled later.
- A couple of 5-gal. buckets to carry everything in

3. Break Virgin Rock

This is the hardest way to find crystals but the most rewarding. You will need to lift and remove large pieces of rock with wedges and other tools. This often takes several hours to pry loose one large bolder. And there is no guarantee that any crystals will be found.

You will need:

All of the things in Item 2 plus:

- A few metal wedges (the ones used to split wood)
- A hoe, flat shovel, and broom for clearing the work area
- A whisk broom and dust pan
- A long handled pry bar or large crow bar
- Long handled tweezers (about 10" long) for picking up stones (optional)
- A long shaft screw driver (about 10" long) for sticking into crevices.

Trip Coordinator

If you are planning to go on this trip or if you need additional information please email or call at (410) 867-1512.

bobdavidson2@comcast.net

Review: A Rock is Lively

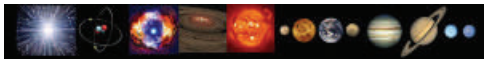
Author: Diana Hutts Aston
Illustrator: Sylvia Long
Themes: Non-Fiction, Reference, Exquisite Illustrations, Poetry
Published: 2012, 40 pages

Reviewed *by Melissa H., www.sweetonbooks.com*

A Rock Is Lively is a beautiful work of art, science and poetry. This combination makes for a truly special book. The inspirational language and exquisite illustrations enable the reader to learn effortlessly about the mysterious world of rocks and geology.

Each two page spread features an incredible illustration with a whimsical thought about rocks and a non-fiction fact. Together, the illustration, the poetry and the non-fiction really offer something for every kind of reader. A young child will be enthralled by the pictures, any age child can listen to the poetry for a quiet night-time story and an older reader can use it as a reference guide for a study of geology.

I especially like this book for a shared reading. Non-fiction can be overwhelming for young readers. Author Dianna Hutts Aston has done a masterful job organizing this book into easy to digest tidbits. It is so well-organized; each different fact or thought even has a different font. The whimsical parts are done in a matching whimsical font, and the factual information is presented in a no-nonsense, easy to read print font. While being an excellent reference guide, *A Rock Is Lively* is also a lyrical and lovely picture book.



Online Rockhounding Adventures

www.agatelady.com

By Karen Brzys, Gitche Gumee Museum

As many of you know I have been working on developing Online Rockhounding Adventures for the past two years. This project ended up being much more difficult than I ever imagined. The first draft I designed in Microsoft Word. Then, last spring I researched available e-learning software and began working with Qarbon's ViewletBuilder7 Enterprise software. I still thought I could convert the first draft to this new format in time for the International Agate Show that took place last July. Well, despite working as many hours as I could on the project, that didn't happen. I resumed work on the project after the incredibly busy summer in October, thinking I would be able to finish in a month or so. Well, during the design I decided to develop more movie clips, rather than using static slides. Although I am happy with this decision because I think the movie clips communicate information much more effectively, it took me a few more months to complete the third draft of the project. I finished the design on January 24th, but it took another week to check all the links and timing on each slide. Then it took a few more days to design the logistical pages to house the Online Rockhounding Adventures on this web page.

So I would like to thank everyone for their patience. If you have been waiting and want to check out "the project," click on the agate link in the banner at the top of this home page. For your information, the Pilot Program Launch includes:

- Two adventures with nine segments.
- 710 slides.
- 86 movie clips
- 25 Fun Facts
- Almost 2,600 graphic elements included on the slides and in the movies

The Adventures and Segments included in this launch are:

Adventure 1

The Basics – Big Bang Through Earth Formation: This adventure is different than all the rest. Adventure 1 describes what matter is, where It came from, and how the Universe, Solar System, and Earth formed and developed. This information provides background that is useful in helping participants to better understand the scientific information that is included in all of the other adventures.

4 segments – 295 slides – 1,080 graphic components – participant time = 6.5 hours

Adventure 2

Lake Superior Agate – Grand Marais, Michigan This adventure features the Lake Superior agate found in Grand Marais, Michigan. The segments cover local geologic history, agate formation, beach rock classification and identification, and how to find agates.

5 segments – 415 slides – 1,481 graphic components participant time = 6.5 hours

Primitive Technology Weekend Saturday-Sunday, May 4 & 5, 2013

http://www.oregonridge.org/primtec.php

Glimpse into man's prehistoric past at Oregon Ridge Nature Center's Primitive Technology Weekend. Since 1988, professional and avocational flintknappers, living history practitioners, traditional archers, and archaeologists have gathered with the visiting public during the first weekend in May to share knowledge and hands-on experience in replicating items composed of stone, bone, wood, and natural fibers.

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH

10 AM-4 PM Safety Officers Jesse Trump & Jim Mezick— supervise bow and arrow shooting each day for families, children and individuals. The woodland and target range will be open both days of the weekend.

10 AM-4 PM Clay Coils and Pinch Pots, Fish Prints with Ochre—ongoing both days. Learn the basics of native pottery and build your own pot with traditional tools. Print a fish on a shirt (bring your own) or on paper using red ochre or charcoal.

11 AM Doug Meyer of Poison Dart Frog Productions—presents River Cane Fish Spears. He will show participants how river cane can be used to make spears for catching fish.

12:30 AM Scott Silsby of Flint Works—presents an approach to hafting strategies for ¾ grooved stone axes which could be applied towards the manufacture of fishing gear. The system is simple and elegant. “You can’t take them apart”. Join Scott to learn his secrets.

1:30 PM Rick Hueston of Primitive Café—will take you foraging for wild edibles to go into a fish stew. Edible plants are all around us, and native people exploited them whenever they encountered them. Hue, will cook up a fish stew in clay pots, so bring your own wood or mussel shell spoon to get a taste!

2 PM Guy Neal of Primal Knowledge.com—will demonstrate both the hot and cold method of smoke curing and preserving fish. In addition to explaining both methods, Guy will have on display a variety of primitive fishing hooks and lines. He is renown for his “primitive” fish catching results using thorn hooks. One of his fish traps will also be set in the stream, hopefully catching dinner.

3 PM Dan Coates and Jack Davis of Archeology Society of the Northern Chesapeake—present a session on slate tools. Although relatively soft, slate lends itself to manufacturing quickly made tools, which can easily be replaced if broken. The Native people of the lower Susquehanna made extensive use of this resource for net weights, and atlatl banner stones .

8 PM Dr. Bill Schindler of Washington College—Interpreting the Past: A Report on a Unique Immersion Experience. During the summer of 2012 students from Washington College were immersed in the various ways the past is interpreted to the public through site visits, behind-the-scene tours, lectures, discussions, readings, and reflection. At the end of the course, the students inhabited an Iron Age Village where they “lived Iron Age Life” and put into practice what they learned by becoming interpreters themselves.

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH

8 AM Bring your wooden or fiberglass traditional bows, flu flu arrows, or arrows with judo and rubber blunt points and a few target points as we shoot at rising balloons, roll an inner tube, and toss aerial targets. Meet us in the meadow for this morning shoot inspired by Dr.Errett Callahan’s book on roving. After the meadow shoot, we have a woodland range with 24 targets for more fun!

11 AM Poisons - Black walnut, devil’s shoestring, tephrosia and the barbascum vine. North American and South American Natives found just the right plants to stun or kill fish. One is a legume, the other a vine; both contain rotenone and in conjunction with fishing arrows, is a way to get an easy meal. Join us in the auditorium for a slide show and hands-on display of arrows and plants that have taken fish.

Feather River
Lapidary & Mineral Society

Rock Tumbling Contest—4th Annual World Rock Tumbling Contest (2013)

The Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society invites you to join us for our fourth annual World Rock Tumbling Contest.

This year we will be using Tuledad Canyon Agate. Tuledad Canyon is located on the California Nevada Border near Susanville CA. Pictures of the polished rock are available on our web site:

http://www.featherriverrocks.org/

This page is your invitation and your application. Download the application form on the right then print it. Please fill out the information, make out the check payable to FRLMS and mail to:

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society or FRLMS
P.O. Box 2645
Oroville, CA. 95965

Prizes

- First place $250.00
- Second Place $100.00
- Third Place $50.00

Entry fee this year will be $40.00 for continental US residents. This will include shipping material to you. All others fees will be $40.00 plus shipping. Please send correct fees and how to ship.

- 3 lbs. of rough will be shipped to you when application & check are approved.
- We will stop accepting applications June 1st, 2013.

1/2 lbs. finished rock must be returned with copy of entry form and must be post marked no later than August 15th, 2013.

ROCKTALK

Clearwater Nature Center
Maryland-National Capital Park &
Planning Commission
11000 Thrift Road
Clinton, MD 20735
301-297-4575

We're on the web:
SMRMC.org

Next Meetings:
April 23, 2013
May 28, 2013
7:00 PM

April Refreshments/ Programs

Refreshments:

Tina and Harry League, Christine Proctor, and Mary Burns

Program:

Cracking Geodes, Christine Proctor