

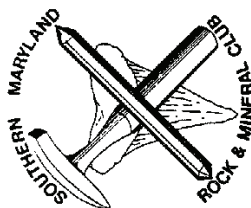
June/July 2013



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



RockTalk



Message from the President

Rich Simcsak

Last month we discussed the 2014 Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club's Show. It appeared that we would and could have the entire Show Place Arena for the show and have it for either one or two days—the club members seriously discussed the options we had for the next show and played out the pros and cons of a show that could be three to five times larger than we have had before. The logistics of holding a two day event will be challenging but the group agreed it would be in the club's best interest to expand the show to the entire Arena spaces and hold the event on Saturday and Sunday 15 and 16 February 2014.

In the upcoming

months, the club will be discussing all aspects of the show to properly prepare for an event that could kickoff 2014 with a gathering that will bring many members from other Rock and Mineral Clubs to see how an event should be produced. We all need to begin planning for this large event not only to publicize our club, but to be able to share with the many dealers and other rock and mineral enthusiasts what can be done in Southern Maryland.



Paul and Linda Holden at the 2013 Mineral, Jewelry, & Fossil Show at The Show Place Arena.

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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.**



In EFMLS news: Eastern Foundation Fund News, Wildacres Fall class information and a registration form, being safe with simple tools, conservation and legislative news, a club Rockhound of the Year selection and more. Visit www.amfed.org/efmls



In AFMS news: the Endowment Fund Raffle lineup, mentoring young people, Honorary Scholarship Foundation Recipients and Students, the Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program, The National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame, a program competition, and more. Visit www.amfed.org.

Upcoming Shows and Events

August 16-18: Gem Miner's Jubilee. Lebanon, PA. Friday and Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM. Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. \$6 Admission, children under 12 Free. Lebanon Expo Center, Rte. 72. www.gem-show.com

September 14-15: 48th annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Sat 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM. Zembo Shrine, Third and Division Streets, Harrisburg, PA Admission \$6.00. Children 12 and under, Scouts in uniform free with adult.

September 28-29: Franklin-Sterling Gem and Mineral Show Saturday 9:00-5:00 (indoor) and 7:30-6:00 (outdoor). Sunday 10:00-4:00 (indoor) 9:00-5:00 (outdoor). Franklin School, Franklin, NJ. Admission \$7.00 (adult) \$4.00 (children 6-16) for more information, contact Franklin Mineral Museum 973-827-3481 www.franklinmineralmuseum.com

October 11: Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society Auction. 7:30 PM (preview at 7:00 PM) Westchester community Center, 2414 Westchester Ave. Oella, MD 21043

November 23-24: Fairfax, VA 22nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club - www.novamineralclub.org & and the GMU Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences.

George Mason University, Fairfax Virginia at The Hub (former Student Union Bldg II) Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Teens (13-17) \$3. FREE - Children (12 & under), Scouts in uniform, GMU Students w/valid ID. Parking: On campus use GMU's parking Lot A (for Handicap Parking follow our van back from Lot A) Enter Lot A from Nottaway River Lane off Braddock Road Courtesy shuttle.

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

SMRMC OFFICERS

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

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May Minutes

By Christine Proctor

DATE: May 28, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. Guests Suzanne Kelsey from NY & Greta Gormley.

TREASURER: N/A

SECRETARY: Minutes approved

MEMBERSHIP: Bob sent out an email about opting out of the roster. Polly will wait another month to finalize the roster info. Officers and trip leaders will get the full list.

PROGRAMS: Tonight's program is Geology of Willis Mountain By Penny Masuoka. We need refreshments for July and November. Tonight's refreshments are from Carol, Al and Polly. Next month will be Paul and Linda and we will have a movie for our program called The New Crystal Hunters.

FIELD TRIPS:

- Medford has responded.
- National Limestone This weekend on Saturday. Contact Ted Carver.
- Vulcan trip may be next weekend with the Montgomery County club and Northern VA.
- Herkimer- Harry, Tina, Joe, and Ralph went for 4 days and found some good stuff.
- Crystal Grove- Tina and Harry went for one day and found Herkimer with calcite and some black Glenda South Carolina- Dave found a lot of pyrite.
- Herkimer's.
- Gettysburg- Tim Ford, stilbite and epidotes.
- Jim White- Valley Quarry.
- Kentucky Trip this weekend.
- Sept. 3-13, 10 days in Utah. Delta, Topaz Mountain, Agate Hill, Milford- obsidian, Dugway- geodes.

WEBMASTER: Bob could use the field trip reports. We are getting 85-90 hits a day.

OLD BUSINESS: Alva Worthington donation letter.

NEW BUSINESS: Gem Show date for next year, try to get March 15. Maybe use the arena area for up to 400 tables, or three rooms. Consider overnight security for more than a one day show. You can drive into the arena area for easy set up. We could raise table rates and/or charge for electric.

ADJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:48.

June Minutes

By Cheryl Reese

DATE: June 25, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

No guests were present

TREASURER: No changes

SECRETARY: Minutes corrected by Dave Lines, the field trip he took was to Glendon, N.C. not Glenda S.C.

MEMBERSHIP: N/A

PROGRAMS: We need refreshments for July and November. Tonight's refreshments were from Paul and Linda. Our program tonight was a movie called Smoky Hawk The New Crystal Hunters provided by Dave Lines. July's program will be provided by Bob Farrar, Geodes from Brazil. No one has signed up for refreshments for July. August is our auction Month meeting

FIELD TRIPS: No immediate trips planned

There is an interest in going to the silica mine in Montpelier, VA

Rick brought his finds from the Vulcan Quarry trip Harry and Tina's trip to Kentucky resulted in beautiful geodes, though fluorite was difficult to get due to flooding. Tina will provide a field trip report Bob.

September 3-13, 10 days in Utah. Delta, Topaz Mountain, Agate Hill, Milford- obsidian, Dugway- geodes. Tina and Harry are planning this trip.

EDITOR: Apologies for delay with newsletter

WEBMASTER: Site up to date, though missing some field trip reports. Bob will be adding all field trips to the site that have been advertised whether or not they were attended by our club members.

OLD BUSINESS: Feb 15th is not available for the Rock show. Michael will try to secure March 8th and 9th for the arena and the banquet rooms. Gary suggested that we may want to have a joint venture with MGS (Maryland Geological Society) thinking they may bring in more people and educational opportunities. If that occurs, Bob and Gary agree a committee needs to be set up with members from both groups

NEW BUSINESS: We are being highly encouraged by EFMLS to send a rep to their conference in 2014

ADJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

Field Trip Report: Vulcan Quarry, Havre de Grace, MD

June 8, 2013

By Jim White

On Saturday, June 8, Rich Simczak, Tim Foard, Joe Davis and I met at the Vulcan Quarry in Havre de Grace, MD for a combined collecting trip with members of the Montgomery County and Northern Virginia rock clubs. We had been concerned that the weather of the previous day might lead to a cancellation of the trip, the rains had been heavy and there had been flash flood watches issued for the area that had been lifted only hours before. Our trip leader, Jonathan Harris, had said there could be trouble with washed out or flooded roads, or in an extreme case, maybe even a wall collapse. Some of the worst of the rains hadn't even come through the area when we got our last update the day before, so we were experienc-



ing a little anxiety over what we were going to find. Luckily it wasn't long before the quarry rep showed up and assured us that the trip was on and there were no weather-related impediments to our collecting ac-

tivities. Maybe I should say there were a minimum of impediments. There was quite a bit of standing water in the pit and a LOT of mud. That nice squishy, STICKY mud that seems to only be found in quarries—MESSY. But not enough to deter us. After a slight delay while some stragglers got the safety briefing, we were off and running. Well, maybe not running. The quarry was operating that day and the rep didn't want to take any chances that we might tangle with any of the heavy equipment being operated in the pit. He had us follow him to an area where they weren't working and instructed us not to leave until he came to escort us to another area. There was plenty of rock to hunt through, so nothing to gripe about and

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we set to it. The main attraction here, at least from my point of view, is Pyrite. More specifically, yard Pyrite. A lot of Pyrite turns gray with time and exposure to the elements. Some that I collected last summer was gray within a couple of months. This material seems to be much more resistant than Pyrite from many other locations. I have pieces in my yard that I collected 3 or 4 years ago that are unchanged from when I picked them up.

This quarry also produces some Epidote and I'm told, zeolites, though I've never seen any.

We began finding Pyrite right away. While the quantity was ample and the quality (for yard rock) was acceptable, I was a little disappointed not to find any whole cubes. I only found two fragments. Our trip



leader found a vug with some feldspar crystals about 1 1/2"-2" long. These were not very well formed but he offered them to the quarry rep to put on display and he seemed to be happy to get them. The most impressive specimen that I saw that day was what ap-

peared to be Chalcopyrite, approx. 3-4" wide and 6 or 7 inches long. A veritable rainbow. Iridescent pink, red, blue, yellow and green. I was almost as green with envy. I spent some time searching the area where it had been found but to no avail. Oh well. Better luck next time. At least I got some nice yard rock.

National Limestone Quarry, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Pennsylvania

By Timothy Foard

On June 1, 2013 several members of the Philadelphia and Central PA mineral clubs, Northern VA mineral club, and the SMRMC met at the National Limestone Quarry, Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA around 9:00 AM for a safety meeting and a brief lesson on the Bible by Eric Stahl, the quarry's owner.

It was going to be an in-



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Herkimer Diamonds—A Natural Phenomenon



Tina...

By Tina League

During the week of May 12-17, 2013, four SMRMC members: Harry, Tina, Ralph B., and Joe went to Herkimer, NY in search of Herkimer Diamonds. Harry and Tina arrived on Sunday, May 12 and began collecting on Monday, May 13. The weather was a bit of a shocker—a bit of snow in the morning and then **cold rain** all day. Harry decided that this was the year he was going to try his luck working the wall at the Herkimer Mine. He had a very promising spot in a corner that had previously produced nice pockets of diamonds. He and Tina spent the day laboriously tearing down the wall. During their breaks they found some nice crystals in the old pockets next to the wall. At 5:00, it was time to pack up and head back to the hotel to get **hot showers** and food. They met Joe and Ralph at the hotel that evening and were surprised to see only one

truck. Unfortunately for Joe, his truck broke down 1 mile from town. He had to put all of his gear in Ralph's truck and find a shop that could fix his truck in a hurry. Undaunted by

his automotive challenge, Joe was very excited to get to work in the mine the next day.

The next morning, they all headed out to the mine. Their friend Tom was at the mine and they had fun catching up on news from the past year. The weather was cool and cloudy, but at least it wasn't raining. Harry and Tina went back to their spot at the wall while Joe and Ralph worked several areas of the floor digging and breaking rock. Tom shared his knowledge and even some hand tools to help everyone during the day. Joe and Ralph were rewarded with nice crystals from their efforts. Harry and Tina made a lot of

progress on the wall- but were still far off from the "pocket paydirt".

Back to the mine on Wednesday—and a bit of sunshine greeted the diggers. Joe's truck was being repaired and things were looking up. Joe and Ralph continued to work various areas of the mine while Harry and Tina stubbornly chipped at the wall. They had removed most of the "shelf" and were trying to get to remove the "table" that was wedged in on both sides by "seats". Tom stopped by the wall several times to give them a pep talk and some helpful advice (and a few hammer swings). **THAT IS SOME**



...and Harry. Working the wall.

HARD ROCK! was their mantra for the day. A thunderstorm conveniently broke out around noon, chasing the diggers to their trucks for a much needed lunch break. After the storm they all went back to work until

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National Limestone Quarry

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credibly hot day. We proceeded down into the lower portion of the quarry where the calcite and strontionite crystals occur. Not much active work in the quarry, and it was evident that previous club members had very recently picked over the area. A little discouraged, but determined to find decent specimens, I was especially interested in finding some strontionite, which eluded me on a previous trip.

Calcite were everywhere—small crystal vugs were common. Several had an iridescent coating, probably iron oxides. Occasional fluorite was seen as purple stains on the white massive calcite. During the first couple of hours I found little that I want to take home. Since I collected a lot of material here a year earlier, this time around I was more selective in what to collect. I found a hand-sized chunk of limestone containing small pyrite cubes and a couple



of small calcite vugs.

By the third hour, all of the other members decided to head up to the wavellite site, but I remained at the lower end of the quarry because I have yet to find any strontionite (and that I have enough wavellite from the earlier trip). After a brief rest (remember, it was a hot day!), I renewed my efforts and more systematically searched all of the area I was only allowed to collect. This paid off, as I obtained several specimens of strontionite, some larger calcite

crystals (Ted from the Northern VA also gave me a couple of specimens of calcite as well), and some fossiliferous limestone containing mostly brachiopod shells.

A second trip to a fossil site was initially scheduled after the National Limestone quarry trip, but the members changed their mind (might had something to do with the heat). We thanked Eric, ate lunch at nearby Mt. Pleasant Mills, and headed home, hoping for another trip in the future.



Strontionite in calcite matrix



Micro calcite crystals with iridescent coating

Vulcan Havre de Grace Quarry

By Timothy Foard

On June 8, 2013 several members of the Southern Maryland, Montgomery County, and Northern VA mineral clubs met at the Vulcan Quarry, Havre de Grace, MD at 7:00 AM. It rained extensively earlier that week, but I was glad that the trip was not cancelled. After a longer than usual safety meeting by the quarry representative, we were led down into the quarry, crossing patches of standing water, until we reached our destination.

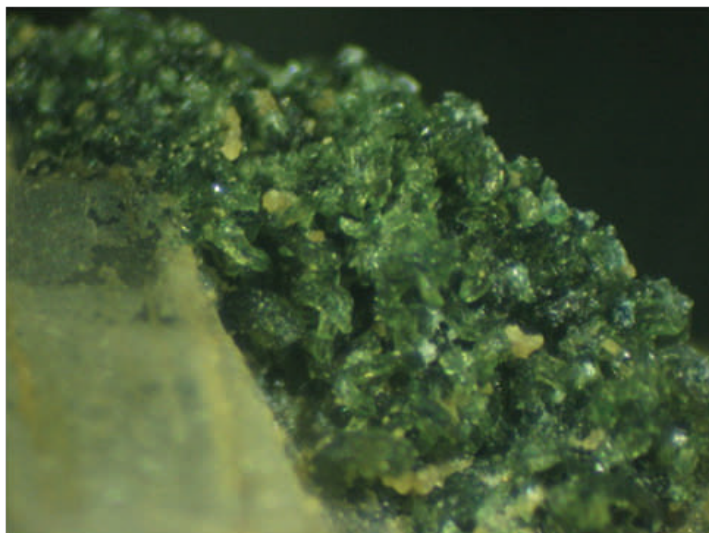
The trap rock consists of largely diabase and gabbro, and metagabbro present. Pyrite cubes were everywhere, but the hardness of the rocks prevents an easy extraction. A few cubes were over 2 inches across; most were 1 inch and under. Some weathered specimens were collected free from the matrix. Some quartz zones were uncommon and interspersed in the diabase. This looks like a good place for micros. After collecting some hand specimens of the

host rock for thin sectioning and some pyrite cubes, I shifted focus of the micros. The first couple of hours searching and breaking boulders revealed clusters of actinolite crystals, which were actually rather common. In addition, a small slab of metagabbro contained heulandite druses lining the cracks of the specimen. Some microcrystals of epidote, and a chlorite mineral resembling clinocllore was also collected. It

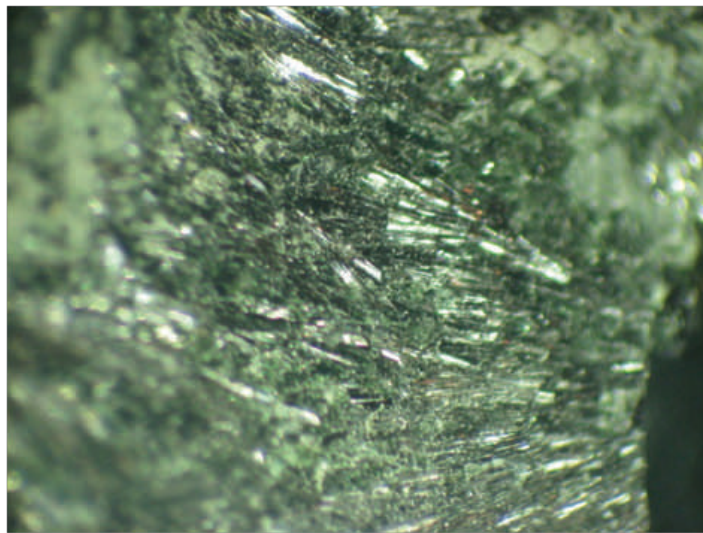
turned out to be a very productive quarry representative before heading home.



Pyrite in host rock



Clinocllore? (30x)



Actinolite (30x)

Kentucky

By Tina League

May 31- June 4, 2013, 5 members of the SMRMC (Harry, Tina, Mike, Joe and Paula) went to Kentucky to collect Fluorite and Geodes. They drove out to western Kentucky to attend the Eureka Mine Fluorite dig sponsored by the Clement Mineral Museum of Marion, KY. The weekend of June 1 and 2 the Museum puts on a 2 day dig, their annual show, and Museum tours. The Blue Grass Gem and Mineral Club (Tina and Harry are also members of this club) were digging at this site for their June field trip.

Friday night was very stormy and the rain continued into Saturday morning. Undaunted, the rockhounds drove to the Museum in the morning to sign up for the dig and collect their maps. There were four dig sites: Hickory Cane Mine, Eureka Mine (2), and the Lafayette Mine. Everyone in the group decided to go to the Eureka Mine for the day. They were greeted with steady rain and op-



timistic collectors. The rain was coming down faster than the pumps could clear the "pit", so everyone spread out and dug through the piles of material that had been dumped on top. Fortunately, the purple Fluorite was easy to see once the sticky mud was scraped off the surface. There were at least 30 people at any given time working in the mud all day. The rain was a constant factor, which didn't help with the footing. By early afternoon they were working in a

They didn't have much luck down there- due to the fact that the veins were under water. The creek banks (which typically have the best material) were non-existent- due to the flooding that day.

By 5:00, it was time to pack up and call it a day. Even with all of the weather related snafus, everyone managed to collect some nice "gloveable" (Mike's term for good specimens) material. The hardy rockhounds washed off as best as they could in the creek and headed back to town for dinner at the Southwest Grill (the most popular steakhouse in town). The impossible night dig was cancelled due to the dangerous conditions created by the rain.

By mid-afternoon the rain finally let up and several people worked their way down into the pit.



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Kentucky

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an impressive display of beautiful Kentucky agate. Phil (BGGMC) had some spectacular Fluorite that he had collected at another location. Then it was time to head to the mine.

The group decided to visit the Lafayette Mine first to see how the collecting was there.

The rocks at the Lafayette mine were rather weathered, but had the potential for good "garden rocks". The big bonus was that the hill was all rocks—no mud. After collecting some yard rocks and a few fossils, it was time to head back to the Eureka Mine. The Eureka Mine was much quieter than the previous day. Only a handful of rockhounds showed up to play in the sticky, gooey mud pit. Everything was coated with mud that the sun was quickly baking onto the rocks. Most of the day was spent feeling for crystals and then scrubbing them off in puddles to see if there was any purple. It proved to be an arduous but effective procedure. Many nice specimens were found that day. Joe and Paula headed out a little early to find another location for fossils and arrowhead material.

At 5:00 Tina had to be dragged out of the mine....as usual. It was time to grab a bite to eat and clean up for the Monday's geode hunt in the Danville and Stanford areas.

The plan was to drive to Danville in the morning and collect geodes for the rest of the day

and Tuesday morning. Unfortunately Joe's truck had other plans. That evening Harry and Tina got a call from Joe stating that he and Paula were stranded on the westbound side of Highway 24. Harry and Tina drove out to Highway 24 to pick up Joe and Paula.

As they were cruising down the highway looking for Joe, they saw a white pick-up that looked just like Joe's truck on the eastbound side of 24. A quick peek to the other side of the highway—and there was Joe's truck. What a coincidence...and that's why the tow truck driver stopped on Tina, Joe and Paula spent the



the eastbound side and hooked up the wrong truck...oops...an hour later Joe's truck was on the tow truck and the tired rockhounds headed back to town.

Monday morning Joe and

Harry headed to the repair shop (just across the road from the hotel) to see if the truck could be fixed that day. Mike had planned on driving home that day after collecting geodes in Stanford. He wished them luck and headed down the road. Harry, the tow truck driver stopped on Tina, Joe and Paula spent the

day driving around western Kentucky touring some of the local towns. By 1:30 that afternoon the repair shop had the truck repaired and road ready. Mike called and said he found the

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Kentucky

(Continued from page 10)

creek in Stanford and successfully collected geodes and was on his way home. The group loaded up their trucks and headed out to Danville. They arrived in Danville one hour before dark and decided to head to the Stanford creek to collect some geodes. They collected until dark and went back to the hotel for some much needed rest.

Tuesday morning they headed out early to collect at the creek in Stanford. They did find some Amethyst geodes and many, many more. The next stop was Halls Gap and then on to the creek in Danville. They ended up collecting rocks until 6:00 pm. With full trucks and a long journey home, they headed out. Harry and Tina decided to drive all night and head straight home. Joe and Paula drove for a few hours, stopped for the night and then headed home on Wednesday.

Lapidary Club May Meeting

By Bob Davidson

Nine members attended the May 25th meeting for the wire wrapping session. Using copper wire, we made a Basic Wire-Wrapped Cabochon Setting using instructions provided by a representative of Beadalon Company via YouTube.



AFMS Code of Ethics



1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will build fires only in designated or safe

places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

8. I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
11. I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
12. I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
13. I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all

collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

14. I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
15. I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
16. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
17. I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.



Joe's nemesis- the area he hurt his foot on last year!



Ralph breaking rocks- finding crystals

(Continued from page 6)

closing time. That evening they all went to their favorite seafood spot "Fat Cats" and enjoyed a delicious dinner and story telling...and sleep!

Thursday was their last day to work at the mine. The weather was beautiful—sunshine and seventy degrees. The repairs to Joe's truck were to be completed that day and he was relieved to know he would be able to drive home the next day. Harry and Tina were not very confident that they would be able to get to the pocket in

time. They had only managed to remove 1 square foot of rock the previous day and they were a bit frustrated. They decided to press on and see if they could get through the impenetrable table. Joe and Ralph found some very nice specimens throughout the day.

Around noon, Harry's arm fell off (just kidding) and he decided to admit defeat on the wall. Tina stared in stupefied horror as Harry

on the table rock, and banged some more; and more,.....and sighed, admitted defeat and walked away, shoulders sore and drooping and her head held low, mumbling "hard rock.....dynamite needed.....hard rock".....(kind of like a zombie). It must have been scary to watch.



Old pocket crystals



The Herkimer Boys

packed up his hammers and a pile of rocks hammering away chisels and trying to find some crystals to walk away. take home (she gave the BIG Tina does not ones to Harry to break up—a like to admit defeat; she banged great frustration reliever).

Joe and Ralph had to leave a

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Herkimer, NY

(Continued from page 12)

bit early to collect Joe's truck from the repair shop and check out some other areas. Harry, Tina and Tom met at Fat Cat's that evening for one last great seafood dinner.

Friday arrived too soon, it was time to go. Joe had his truck back and he and Ralph had several fossil spots they wanted to stop at on the way home. They said their goodbyes and headed out.



Not sleeping on the job

Harry and Tina decided to check out the Crystal Grove Mine in St. Johnsville before heading home. Crystal Grove is about 30 miles northeast of Herkimer. They

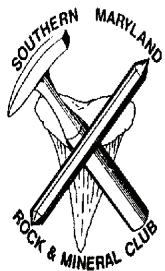
drove to the mine and went to the gift shop to pay the fee and get the map of the collecting areas. Crystal Grove has a very

nice quiet campground and laid back atmosphere. They had several areas to collect in—and they were the only ones there—it was nice having the mine to themselves....except for the snakes, flies, mosquitoes....



They checked out the mines and started collecting. The wall there was only a few feet in height and the rock broke like butter! Yeah!!! They found some very unique specimens...including: black diamonds, calcite formations with dolomite and herkimer crystals, glacier formations and beautiful druse. The herkimers were small, but had an interesting rainbow effect to them. Around 4:00 pm they packed up their specimens and headed down the road for the long ride home.

Snakes. Why did it have to be snakes?



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 Meeting:
July 23, 2013
7:00 PM

July
Refreshments/
Programs

Refreshments:

TBA at July meeting. Thank you for volunteering.

Program:

The Land of Amethyst and More—Bob Farrar