

## Field Trip Report: Vulcan Manassas Quarry

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On September 13, 2014 a few members of the SMRMC and the NOVA met at the parking lot of the Vulcan Quarry in Manassas, Virginia. The forecast called for rain, and it looked like it may sometime today.

After the safety briefing we proceeded down into the quarry. We were initially excited after being informed that there was blasting the day before and about being the first to collect in the area. The excitement was short-lived, for the freshly blasted area was located in homogeneous diabase which is ideal for the quarry owners but not from collector's point of view. There were no seams which may reveal the presence of vugs that will contain minerals. After spending some time there we proceeded to other areas of the quarry which were not off limits to us.

The pickings were quite slim for all of us. I walked down to the lower levels and saw signs of previous collecting activity. One of the better finds of the day was a small cavity containing a greenish mineral resembling chloritoid. It was collected by Casper of the NOVA Club. One unexpected find was blocks of crumbling diabase which, when broken, revealed thousands of eggs of deer ticks. I recognized them as such because next to them were the dried remains of adult ticks. In addition I found small calcite-lined cavities as well as some unusual

growths of massive calcite. I drove up to the upper level to search for vesicular basalt. After only a couple of minutes there I found 1 piece and then the rain came. That was our cue to call it a day. It was also getting late at that time. We thanked the owners for another opportunity to collect in the quarry.