

**Amazonite at Morefield Mine, Amelia, VA
by Rich Simcsak**



It was a beautiful Saturday 02 May 2015, that two of the SMRMC members met at the Morefield Gem Mine, in Amelia, VA. Sharon and Sam have been busy this season and planned a 30 May closing, so a visit this spring was a must. As the morning drew on more families and couples came to try their luck at finding that special bounty of Amazonite and other possible minerals available at this site.



Dave Lines came with a family of five which had one young and highly energetic young collector that used with excitement throughout the day. In addition Rich Simcsak (author) came solo with the hopes of finding the multiple different minerals the mine produces.



Sharon and Sam Dunaway, the mine's owners were excited to see us and pleased that people would drive 3 to 3 1/2 hours to collect from his mine. People could not ask for better hosts. At 0930, the collecting sites opened and us and many more still coming to the site began to collect.



Today Sam would make five different dumps of material from the mine in the three collection areas. This usually turned into a "feeding frenzy" for people to collect the deepest blue-green Amazonite. Many nice large pieces (hardball size) to that of a dime were to be found. In addition, samples of Grossular Garnet were available. Many younger collectors had specific interest in the garnet. Dave and myself were able to find nice samples and share the with the younger collectors for their first samples of the mineral. Excitement was each of their eyes when given a sample - they were instantly hooked on collecting. Some were able to find small garnets on the "garnet hill", small slender quartz crystals, some amethyst partial crystals, that were "added" to the collecting fields. Common Topaz has been found before but we did not hear of anyone finding a specimen.



During one of the fresh dumps of material, I kept in mind those unusual shapes that could come from the mine. The night before, I took the time to look at Morefield Mine on [HTTP://WWW.MINDAT.ORG](http://www.mindat.org) and [WWW.MOREFIELDGEMMINE.COM](http://www.morefieldgemmine.com) which had multiple pictures of sample that came from this mine. In the dump field next to the mine's entrance, there it was in a hole, a hexagon shape crystal - a Green Beryl! Just about an inch long, but it was a beryl. Took the find into the exhibit/gift shop and showed Sharon and Sam. Sam remembered that one of his team found something similar the day before. He re-found the piece and it was of the same color and construction. Then he placed the two together and they were one crystal before the break! He presented me with the piece he had to me to make a single crystal. WOW!! This find and the sharing of the sister piece will keep me coming back to this site!

This fee site for collecting is one that the club has visited many times before and as a repeat visitor, I will always recommend others to spend the time to visit the mine.