

Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



Rock Talk



March, 2015

Message from the President

Spring is finally here whether Mother Nature likes it or not! This means longer daylight and more time to do the things we all love to do outside. Being able to get out with friends is valuable for all to truly enjoy the change of weather. But remember that safety needs change with being outside. Especially if you are at a collecting site. Ground erosion, changes in the once solid embankments, berms that have settled or even loosened could all be waiting for that unsuspecting collector. We have had a very good record of no accidents at these sites - please keep the record clean! Jim White has been able to "stir up" some springtime trips with other clubs. If there are sites anyone would like to recommend - PLEASE contact Jim. Different locations, places we have not been to recently, and new sites are always welcomed! Just give Jim the location and if there is a POC - all the better!

Thanks to Bob Davidson for the outstanding update of the club's website with the pictures and information about the 25th annual show. This type of "publicity" is great for us and our dealers that have enjoyed our show year after year. A true way of "paying back" those dedicated to the show by having them pictured on the website.

The 2016 Show Committee of volunteers was set at the last meeting and will always accept more assistance. Present members include, Dave Lines, Mike Patterson, Cindy and Gary Lohman, John Pesch, Marco de Pompa, Tim Smith and myself.

We are still looking for that last volunteer to be the Program Coordinator to ensure the club has programs and snacks for each month for the next nine (9) months. This is a good way for someone to meet more members of the club and help the club grow with the endless possibility of topics one can learn from. Please contact myself or Polly if you have interest in this position.

Have a Great Spring - once the snow and cold disappears!! Rich Simcsak

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FEBRUARY MINUTES

Submitted by Linda Holden

DATE: February 24, 2015; Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Richard updated us on Sabrina's condition. Baby girl seems ok. Looking forward to an August birth. Rich also updated us as to his work situation. Newsletter should show Lorna not Lauren. Funeral today for Carol's mother

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: --- They learned about us from the show. They like rocks. Maggie's been a member, but hasn't been able to attend meetings up till now. Welcome!

MEMBERSHIP: No report. Please pay you membership dues tonight.

NEWSLETTER: Tim would like to get the newsletter out by the third week. Please try to get all reports to him before then. Sheryl Sims, Richard Simesak and Tim Foard took great pictures of our show. Change Secretary from Christine Proctor to Linda Holden. Change Lauren to Lorna demonstrated beading.

FIELD TRIPS: Jim said nothing is planned at this time. Lorna, Mel and Marco went to JMU. Excellent goodies. Dave talked with a guy from NY who had Golden Herkimers from Paradise Falls in Middleville. Only need to sift, no pounding rocks. We should go this spring. Dave will pursue. Tina reported on 2015 Mountain Mushroom Festival Schedule the weekend of April 26-27 in Irvine, Kentucky. Admission is free. Tuesday April 22nd-24th is an Agate Hunt. Fee is \$10:00 a day. Fun! See Tina and Harry for more information.

TREASURER: No change. Check sent to EFMLS for our dues.

MINUTES Accepted with corrections. Linda Holden is the current secretary.

PROGRAMS: Meteorite : "Catch a Falling Star" by Gary Lohman. Cindy and Gary Lohman provided refreshments. We still need someone to volunteer to coordinate programs/refreshments. 18 volunteers are needed provide programs and snacks. Please!! Next month Ed Masuoka has the program and Jan Simmons will provide snacks. Ideas: geode cracking, contact vendors who could do a program, the pearl lady (Denise Nelson) for other programs. Michael will contact vendors who might be interested in doing a program. It was suggested that we send around paper for people to volunteer to sign up for programs and refreshments.

WEBMASTER: Bob has put the Newsletter on our website. He also has a CD of pictures from the show. Should put the pictures on the web site next year to stimulate interest in the show.

OLD BUSINESS: Bob gave us preliminary numbers for our show, but is still going through the slips. Michael reported that there were approximately 1019 people who attended. 700 paid. Lots of kids. Bob reported: Door prize slips for people to fill out - 453. \$1 off coupons -242. Had to use 108 blue tickets when they ran out of coupons, couldn't get emails from them because too small, hard to read, etc. 348 of the coupons with emails. He has entered 365 so far. Issues : email addresses sloppy, etc. Need to redesign the coupons. Have a check box so neater. He is keying in zip codes so we know where people are coming from. Not enough room on ticket. 100% did write their emails. How did you hear about the show? 50 people heard from newspaper, also website, emails, friends and relatives. One person heard about the show on TV. Rich handed out a list of suggestions that might help make the Next year's show better. Vendors were happy with the turn out and did well. They would like a two day show. We were lucky with the weather.

NEW BUSINESS: Rich passed out a sheet and mentioned things we might do to improve next year's show. Discussion about having the show next March. March may not work because there are two weekends that would conflict with

other shows. March Madness is probably the 2nd weekend, and the 4th weekend they will be putting down dirt for a horse show. There is a better chance for a two day in February. Last weekend in February or President's Day weekend. Michael will research February and March. We need to put money down to hold our date ASAP Could be \$9,000 to \$10,000 for a two day show. Perfect venue. We could ask more on table fees to cover added costs. We will need volunteers from club to cover the second day. We have 7-8 staff members from center for one day. By next month a committee should be set up to go over what is needed. Discuss issues on handout.

* Motion : To set up committee now. Passed. Michael will go forward and get our name penciled in on a date/s now! Michael asked Gary to be part of committee. Dave, Rich, Marco and Cindy also volunteered. The Super Dig is last weekend in April, annual nighttime dig in NJ. Graves Mountain Dig in Georgia is the same weekend.

ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

**Next Meeting:
March 24, 2015@7:00 PM**

Program

“A 500 Kilometer Field Trip Across Tennessee”
by Edward Masuoka

Refreshments

Jan Simmons

**Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift Road,
Clinton, MD.**

Upcoming Shows and Events: 2015

March 28-29- Plymouth Meeting, PA 15th Annual Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA

March 28-29- 46th Annual Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club. Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, Sayre, PA

March 27-29- 65th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club. Hickory Metroplex, Hickory, NC

April 1- 1st Annual Jewerly gem and Mineral show hosted by the Patustent Lapidary Guild, Inc. Earleigh Heights VFC on Route 2, Severna Park, MD

April 11 -Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference sponsored by the Micromineralogist of the National Capital Area. Springhill Suites Alexandria Marriott, 6065 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA



The EFMLS Newsletter for March has a registration application to the Wildacres workshop and to the EFMLS board of directors meeting in Hickory, NC. The closing of two Pennsylvania collecting sites due to overcollecting: the Rossville malachite/azurite site and the famous St. Clairs fossil fern site. There is a syllabus of classes to be taught at the summer session of Wildacres. Also included in the newsletter are dues and web site contest deadlines reminders, AFMS scholarship news, and one on the history of mineral collecting up to the 16th century.

For these and other information, visit www.amfed.org.efmls



The March newsletter of the AFMS has information on the 2015 SCFMS/AFMS Convention in Austin, Texas in October. Also included is the recognition of Johnie Pitman as AFMS rockhound of the year, book ideas for young rockhounds and the AFMS Code of Ethics.

For these and other information, visit www.amfed.org

Upcoming Field Trips

Combined (with Montgomery Co Club) field trip to the Vulcan Manassas Quarry, Manassas, Virginia, on April 18th.

Annual Super-Dig at Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439 on April 25th from 9:00AM to 11:00PM. For more info visit <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/superdig/index.php>

Multi-club field trip to the National Limestone Quarry, Mount Pleasant Mills, PA on June 13th

If interested, contact Jim White at whitejs1@verizon.net.

Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/22/prehistoric-swiss-army-knife_n_6909050.html?ncid=txtlnkusaolp00000592

500,000-Year-Old 'Swiss Army Knife' Sheds New Light On Ancient Animal Butchering

The Huffington Post | By [Macrina Cooper-White](#)

Posted: 03/22/2015 9:41 am EDT Updated: 03/22/2015 9:59 am EDT



A set of [half-a-million-year-old stone tools](#) -- including what's being called a prehistoric "swiss army knife" -- have scientists going gaga. The tools were found alongside the remains of butchered animals, such as an elephant rib bone bearing cut marks (see photo above), at a dig site in Revadimin, Israel in 2004.

Now, researchers who recently analyzed the finds have discovered the tools are covered in animal fat, and are calling them the first direct evidence of the use of stone tools by ancient human ancestors for animal butchery.

"Archaeologists have until now only been able to suggest scenarios about the use and function of such tools. We don't have a time machine," Prof. Ran Barkai, an archaeologist at Tel Aviv

University's Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures and one of the researchers, said in a written statement. "It makes sense that these tools would be used to break down carcasses, but until evidence was uncovered to prove this, it remained just a theory."

After examining the wear on the surface of the tools, and conducting experiments with replicas modeled after them, the researchers believe one of the tools was a hand axe, a sort of prehistoric "Swiss army knife" that could cut and break down bone and tissue.

Another tool, called a scraper, was likely used to separate animal fat and fur from muscle.



The hand axe, bearing signs of use (small red dots) and residue of animal fat (blue dots).

The ancient discovery helps shed new light on "a major breakthrough in human evolution," Barkai said in the statement.

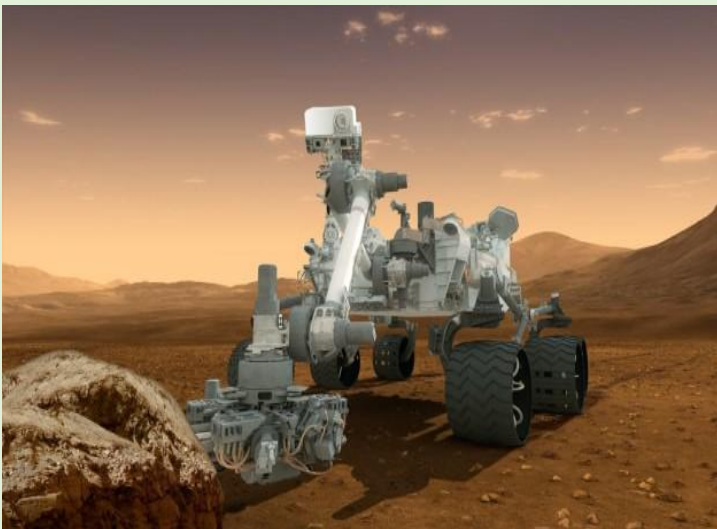
How so? As [prehistoric hominins such as Homo erectus developed bigger brains](#), they required a higher caloric intake, which resulted in a shift from a plant-based diet to a meat-based one, Live Science reported. That required the development of more advanced technology that could extract fat and muscle from animal carcasses.

"To be able to use animal resources, they needed to have tools in order to cut and butcher," Barkai told Live Science. "They fit the needs of these hominins."

The [research was published online](#) on Mar. 18 in the journal PLOS ONE.

<http://dailysciencejournal.com/peculiar-rocks-found-by-mars-rover-opportunity/21652/>
Peculiar Rocks Found by Mars Rover Opportunity

By Floyd Wilson -Mar 11, 2015



While nearing the end of the marathon study on the Martian surface, NASA's Opportunity Mars rover spotted some peculiar rocks and minerals. The hill overlooking a site known as "Marathon Valley" is the place where the rocks have been found. Marathon Valley has been named so because the Opportunity will reach there after travelling 26.2 miles, the marathon distance, on Mars.

Opportunity Project Scientist Matt Golombek, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory mentioned "We drove to the edge of a plateau to look down in the valley, and we found these big, dark-gray blocks along the ridgeline. We checked one and found its composition is different from any ever measured before on Mars. So, whoa! Let's study these more before moving on."

According to the NASA officials, the peculiar Martian rocks have been found to be rich in silicon and aluminum and are

different from any other rock found by Opportunity, or its twin rover Spirit, during the research. Spirit and Opportunity landed on Mars a few weeks apart in January 2004 with the aim of searching past water activity on Mars. The golf-cart-size rovers are known for their longevity as their nominal missions were planned for three months but Spirit explored Mars till 2010 and Opportunity is still carrying on its research work.

Member's Finds

A collection of rutile crystals (left border of box) and iridescent hematite purchased during a collecting trip to Graves Mountain, Georgia in March of 2008 by David Lines



Collected any interesting specimens? Send a photo or two to the editor at bmorebugman@yahoo.com for inclusion in the next issue of Rock Talk.

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The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

Meetings take place on the 4th
Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm

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For More information, call:

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**We're on the web:
SMRMC.org**