

Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



Rock Talk



March, 2016

Message from the Acting President

Bob Davison

Well, winter's gone and spring is in the air. It's a great time to start thinking about rock collecting. Dave has led the first multi-day collecting trip to Graves Mountain Georgia and will probably be back in time for the meeting. We look forward to seeing what was collected during the two days they were there.

As most of you know, our club is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) which is part of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

I was looking at the latest A.F.M.S newsletter and was somewhat surprised to read about amending one of the bylaws titled ARTICLE V: MEETINGS; SECTION 4: IN TOTAL WAR which reads, in part *"In the event of the disability and inhibitions of a total war in which the United States or associated nations may be engaged, or in the event of other great national emergencies, the annual meeting of the board may be held as follows:"*. I was expecting the next sentence to read who-the-hell-cares but instead it went on and on about 90-days this and 30-days that and of course one "Thereupon"..... And I thought it was difficult to make a decision on whether to have a meeting when it snows.

Next Meeting:

March 22, 2016@7:00 PM

Program:

Gary Lohman
"Trace Fossils"

Refreshments:

Cindy Lohman

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FEBRUARY MINUTES

Submitted by Linda Holden

DATE: Meeting was called to order on February 23 at 7:05 pm by Bob Davidson, acting president.

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: John Balasz

MEMBERSHIP: Polly report that there was nothing new. Please pay your dues tonight if you haven't already. Currently we have only 28 members. Last year we had 53. Many have not paid their dues because there was no meeting in January due to snow.

MINUTES: None due to no meeting in January. November minutes were approved.

TREASURER: Dave reported no change. He said he had received an email from Carol Weinberger, from EFMLS saying that she still hasn't received our dues money for 2016. This money is due by March 1st. If it is not received by that date we would lose all our rights as members. Dave sent an email to Michael, but was told the paperwork was lost. Dues are \$1.75 per person. Michael said he would send it, but as of today it still has not been received. Dave said he is willing to send a personal check if she doesn't receive it. Bob said the club will cover the amount for now. Dues are based on last year's membership of 53 members for a total of \$106.00. Cindy will be in Baltimore and will try to catch up with Carol and pay it tomorrow. Someone was sent to ask Glenda if the dues were sent and to get a copy of the paperwork that goes with the check. Paul made a motion that we authorize a check for \$106.00 to pay the dues. The motion passed.

PROGRAMS: Carole shared a resource book, "Great Courses." Bob ordered the program, "The Nature of Earth: An Introduction to Geology." It

includes 36 DVD's which are 30 minutes long. They are college level lectures. She said she would like to have live programs. Tell us about the places you have been. Gary has next month's program on "Trace Fossils." We need someone for April. It was suggested that we might consider doing away with refreshments. How about light refreshments? Refreshments used to be light, but then started to get more elaborate. Members said we should continue with something light because some are coming right from work. Let's have snacks instead of dinner. Please sign up for providing refreshments, chips, cookies, etc. Al and Carole presented the program, "Western Wanderings: A Show and Tell on Collecting in the Canadian Rockies and Western U. S." Tina and Harry provided refreshments tonight.

NEWSLETTERS: Tim reported that he had some trouble getting the newsletter posted this month. Everyone did receive it.

WEBMASTER: Bob reported that everything is up to date. Members commended Bob for how good the website looks. He reported that it is receiving about 900-1000 hits a week.

FIELD TRIPS: Dave passed out a report on his survey for possible field trips for this year. He reported that he only received 7 replies on survey. See his detailed report in the newsletter for possible field trips and dates. [A lot of time and effort went into creating the survey and compiling the data. It should help us to make our plans for this year. Thanks Dave!]. He also shared highlights from our trip to JMU on January 9, 2016. Dr. Lance Kearns is retiring next year so 2017 will probably be our last trip. Dave shared some of his specimens. Dave was the only person who went on the short notice fossil trip. He shared those treasures as well. He has a Sign-up sheet for the agate hunt. He volunteered to do a future program. Rich will continue to send out

Lower Bucks Co. Newsletter, as well as other interesting information.

OLD BUSINESS: A suggestion had been made to change our meeting night to Friday night. This would result in scheduling problems, so we can't do it. We will keep our meeting night as is.

NEW BUSINESS: Dave updated us on the proposed Federal Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary in Charles County, Maryland. No wording yet prohibiting collecting, but it could prohibit collecting of fossils, Native American artifacts, and rocks on the Patuxent River. It has been proposed to expand the area to over 100 square miles. Stay tuned. Once approved, it will be our time to fight and make recommendations. Dave suggested we host a Region 4/ Eastern Federation Pot Luck Picnic/Rock Sale or Trade on June 18. Hilltop Pavillion has been reserved for \$100.00. We will discuss more next meeting. Ask for donations. Could be fun. A motion was made and approved. Bob and Dave are working on a website to advertise this. Look on website, click on More to find advertisement. It is just for EFML members. Dave is the contact person. Now is the perfect time to join the club. Bob said it's easier for some to join Northern Virginia Club. Gary will work on it. We still need someone for the office of president. Bob is currently acting president.

ADJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Upcoming Shows and Events:

2016

April 1-3-- Hickory, NC. Annual Uniflour Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Hickory Metro , Convention Center; I-40, Exit 125.

April 2-3-- Orange, CT 43rd Annual Mineral, Gem, Jewelry, and Fossil Show sponsored by the New Haven Mineral Club. Amity Regional Middle School, Sheffield Rd.

April 2-3-- Plymouth Meeting, PA. Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineral Club and Delaware Valley Paleontology Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike.

April 2-3-- Johnson City, NY. 47th annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show sponsored by the NY Southern Tier Geology Club. Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton Street.

EFMLS/AFMS NEWS by Timothy Foard



The March newsletter has a "Safety Matters" article on Master of the Obvious (especially in the field). An amendment to Article V of the AFMS Bylaws (War or major national emergencies) that will be up for votes at the annual meeting in July 2016. It is now becoming more difficult to collect rocks, minerals and fossils in southern California deserts because of the creation of 3 new national monuments in the region. There is a short article on the best age for recruiting junior members and there is a tribute to the late Jon Spunaugle, former president of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Lands Access Association.

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



The EFMLS Newsletter for March has a safety article on taking care of the hands while rockhounding. There is a call for nominating a person for the Each One Teach One Award and one for the American Rockhound of the Year. There is a reminder to register for the 2016 Ildacres workshop

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

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Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News

After Over 60 Years, Scientists Have Classified These Mysterious Fossils

[Shaena Montanari](#), CONTRIBUTOR

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/shaenamontanari/2016/03/16/on-e-of-the-most-perplexing-fossils-ever-has-finally-been-classified/#5c3ebbf56665>



Life reconstruction of the Tully monster (Image credit: (c) Sean McMahon)

Some have called it the most vexing fossil ever found. The enigmatic fossils of bizarre creatures have been popping up in Illinois—and only Illinois—since 1958, when they were first discovered by amateur fossil collector Francis Tully. This week, a team of researchers from the Field Museum, Yale University, Argonne National Laboratory, and the American Museum of Natural History have finally figured out what the so-called “Tully monster” really is after more than 60 years. This research is published today in the journal *Nature* lead by paleontologist Victoria E. McCoy.

The mystery of the Tully monster started in 1958—but it really dates back more than 307 million years to the Carboniferous period. They are strange, soft-bodied, tubular creatures that were aquatic and ranged in size from 6-12 inches. Their eyes were on stalks and they possessed a skinny snout that ended in a toothy claw-like appendage. The Tully monster, or *Tullimonstrum gregarium*, is found only in the Mazon Creek region of Illinois, 50 miles from Chicago. Its strange body plan unlike anything found

anywhere in the world completely puzzled scientists for decades.

The team of researchers studied over 1200 specimens of Tully monsters, closely examining their morphology. They were able to describe new evidence for anatomical features like a notochord (a cartilaginous backbone), gill pouches, and multiple rows of teeth. In concert, all of this new evidence was used to build a phylogenetic tree where it was determined the Tully monster is actually a vertebrate and is related to jawless lamprey. This discovery is remarkable, as up until now even the most basic classification of the Tully monster—the phylum—was completely unknown.



Lamprey mouth. There are 38 living species of lamprey alive today. (Photo credit: Drow Male, CC BY-SA 3.0 Wikimedia Commons)

This discovery was made possible by cutting-edge X-ray technology at Argonne and painstaking efforts of Field Museum staff digitizing images of their collections. Scanning electron microscopes (SEM) and synchrotron at Argonne looked for trace elements in the fossils to compare to living invertebrates to look for similarities and analyze the preservation of Tully monsters.

But allowing thousands of images of these specimens to be searchable really made this project possible. “By digitizing our collections, taking photographs of our fossils and placing all of the data into a database, we made it easier for our researchers to search our collections and find specimens with new and sometimes rarely preserved evidence that may be critical for their research,” explained Paul Mayer, The Field Museum’s Fossil Invertebrates Collections Manager.



A specimen of a Tully monster from The Field Museum (Image credit: Paul Mayer)

The Tully monster became the Illinois state fossil in 1989, two years after the death of Francis Tully. Solving this mystery and finally showing the Tully monster is actually a vertebrate is an exciting finale to the story of a much beloved fossil in the state of Illinois. Steve Brusatte, a paleontologist from Illinois and author of *State of Mind*, fondly remembers the Tully monster from his youth: “A small museum in Utica, a town close to where I grew up, had a Tully

Monster and I remember being awed by the aura of mystery. So it was a great source of pride. Similar to the pride I had in Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls.”

Perhaps one of the best aspects of the Tully monster story is summarized by Mayer: “When I talk to school groups, I used to use the Tully monster as an example of a mystery that paleontologists have been trying to solve ever since it was discovered. Now I’ll have to change my talk and use it as an example that highlights the importance of how amateur paleontologists and researchers from different backgrounds can work together using new technologies and museum collections to solve a mystery.”

Shaena Montanari is a paleontologist at the University of Edinburgh.

Walking through history at Verona's new 'rock shop'

<http://www.connectverona.com/articles/2016/02/28/walking-through-history-veronas-new-rock-shop>



Photos by Scott Girard. Minerals and More owner Karen Edmund, above, has worked with rocks and fossils for 12 years professionally, though she began collecting them in her childhood. Here, she explains her Himalayan Pink Crystal collection.



The store includes collections in many formats, including natural shapes and carvings. Edmund said she fell in love with the space when she saw how much light entered through the large windows, allowing rocks like those at right to show off beautiful colors.



A piece that Minerals and More owner Karen Edmund calls "dessert" because many visitors tell her it reminds them of sherbet.

Karen Edmund holds up a sphere-shaped piece of shungite, with smooth edges and a label noting that it's from Finland.

"You are holding a stone that is 1.1 billion years old," she says.

The stone is one of the oldest in Verona's new "rock shop," but Edmund has dozens more that range in the hundreds of millions of years old or the hundreds – or even thousands – of dollars.

That includes objects like a camel carved out of dendritic jasper, small dinosaurs as part of the fossil collection and old stones with nature scenes painted on.

Beyond their shapes, Edmund is also a student of the "metaphysical" properties of different kinds of stones, or what types of healing they offer, and includes books that explain how stones can affect someone who possesses one.

Her interest in those deeper topics of rocks turned into her current ownership of Minerals and More, located in Prairie Oaks Center at 1035 North Edge Trail. The store sells rocks, fossils, stones and crystals from around the world and many historical eras, including the shungite, though it was only relatively recently discovered.

The store offers something for a range of potential buyers, from the small \$4 meteorite pieces to a more than \$5,000 amethyst crystal coffee table.

Edmund has been working with minerals, rocks, crystals and fossils for 12 years now, but her passion began back when she was a child, picking up rocks along the railroad tracks, she recalled.

"Back then you could find agates on the tracks," she said. "Now if you find a track it's really cruddy ... stuff."

When she moved to Madison for graduate school in 2004, she stumbled upon Relics, a "little rock shop" at Westgate Mall in Madison. After asking twice – and getting rejected – for a job, one of the owners of the store finally relented.

"The third time I asked the guy, he says, 'I talked to my brother, you're hired,'" Edmund said. "The next thing I know, he said, 'You're doing way more than

we can pay you for ... you want to buy into the business?"

Eventually, the three decided it's best to "close a business on a good note, not when it's doing bad," so they sold it. Edmund, though, knew she had found her passion.

Her focus was less about fossils, though, so she opened her own store as Minerals and More. Originally located in Westgate Mall, Edmund began looking for a space in the suburbs. After she "looked and looked and looked" in Middleton, she asked her commercial real estate agent to look in Verona as well.

The first two spaces were not right for Edmund, but then she entered the building in Prairie Oaks Center. Edmund said she immediately thought the varying stones she offered would reflect the light in the space to create beautiful colors.

"When I walked in, it was a sunny day," she recalled. "The sun was streaming in ... and it's like, 'Oh my gosh, this is it.'"

'Energy'

Her book selection includes the "Encyclopedia of Crystals," which explains the history of different kinds of stones and what they can do for someone who possesses one. She also pointed to the long history of "energy" from stones, dating back to the Bible and Native American cultures.

Edmund practices what she preaches, too, as she never leaves home "without something in my pocket," she said.

Edmund gets her pieces from a pair of trade shows each year – one in Denver in September and one in Tucson in February – where she handpicks each piece from among hundreds of vendors.

"It's a lot of work," she said, "but it's a lot of fun."

The most fun, Edmund said, is seeing young children and their imaginations come into the store and pick out stones. She recalled a specific story about a 5-year-old who told his mother he needed a stone, and said, as he picked up a stone, that it allowed him to take a deep breath and relax.

"This happens every week in my store," she said of similar stories. "Why wouldn't I want to be here? It's the coolest place to be."

Hammer helps geologist find the story behind the rock

Robert W. Wichman,

<http://www.sctimes.com/story/sports/outdoors/2016/03/19/hammer-helps-geologist-find-story-behind-rock/81650062>



(Photo: Sue Halena)

Some wag from the 19th century once described geologists as "those crazy blokes with their wee little hammers, busy turning mountains back into molehills."

That may be a small exaggeration, but we do like our hammers — and we do use them freely on many an outcrop.

The reasons for this wanton “vandalism” are twofold. First, few outcrops offer good, clean exposures of the rocks they hold.

Usually, some combination of graffiti, lichen, moss, weathering or water stains have intermingled to cover or confuse the surface. In which case, breaking off a piece is the quickest and easiest way to see what is really there (at the risk of flying rock shards).

The other reason, however, is more fundamental. For many rocks and minerals, how they break is nearly as diagnostic as any other observation we can make.

Take, for instance, the difference between shale and slate. Shales are just layered mudstones; other than bedding they have no internal structure. Thus, they tend to break irregularly and often are somewhat crumbly.

In contrast, slates — which are equally fine-grained — have re-crystallized so that their clay minerals are all aligned. As clays are thin, flat minerals, that means slates split easily into thin, brittle sheets, often ready-made for shingles.

For other sedimentary rocks, breaking them allows an inspection of their sands and sediments, and sometimes of the cements holding them together. Also, many fossils (especially shells and fish) can be found where a rock breaks.

But the real fun starts when we break igneous rocks like granite. Here, the minerals are all intermeshed and grown together. So if you break the rock, you have to break the minerals inside. This is guaranteed to reveal the true colors of those minerals, but it also shows something of how those minerals are put together as well.

Specifically, if you look closely at any broken piece of granite, you will see some dull, glassy minerals and also a number of flat, sparkly minerals. The knee-jerk assumption is that those flat reflectors are crystal faces that happened to be aligned with the

break. But, look more closely and you’ll see at least some of those reflectors aren’t flat. They step up or down while still reflecting light at the same angle.

In reality, most of those facets are cleavage planes, places where the minerals broke along a systematic zone of weakness inside the crystal.

As such weaknesses mark variations in the chemical bonding of different atoms, they are repeated in some minerals at small intervals, and with specific orientations. Thus, micas (which have a single cleavage) peel off into thin sheets, and feldspars (which have multiple, intersecting cleavages) break either into tiny, block-like shapes or along stepped facets. On the other hand, minerals without cleavage, like quartz and garnet, do not break flatly and usually show more chipped or irregular surfaces.

So, as spring brings a sparkle to the rocks around us, take a closer look. Some of those glints may be more than just rain or snowmelt.

This is the opinion of Robert Wichman, a geologist and professor who has explored many of Minnesota's state parks.



Arizona is the Place to Be (In January!) Part 2

Photos and Article By Dave Lines

Friday January 29th --- After an all-too-short night’s sleep, my son Jeff and I were up early and off to Tucson by 7 a.m. Along the way, we topped off with gas and made our first trip to the ATM. We arrived early enough to find a place to park on Congress Street west of I-10. Jeff and I visited several shows along I-10 looking for good deals.

Let me say that from the beginning, I was very impressed with the great improvement in the

presentation of specimens by dealers everywhere. There were many superb specimens displayed in well lighted and aesthetically pleasing professional glass cabinets. Lots of “eye candy” at every show and we were visiting at the very beginning of the Tucson shows when the quantity of excellent rocks was at its peak. That said, Tucson is a place where “sensory



overload” can quickly become a factor. You see so-o-o much in such a short time that you have difficulty deciding when to buy a specimen because there can easily be a better one at a lower price in the next room --- literally! And the dilemma is that there are thousands of other buyers and collectors eager and willing to buy the same specimens. Also, despite trying to charge items on a credit card (when the dealers were set up for it), running out of cash is a real problem. When I reached my limit at the ATM, I had to go to my bank to withdraw more. But overall, it was a real joy to see so many beautiful rocks in a few days.

About mid-morning, Jeff and I drove to the area near the Executive Inn where Jeff introduced me to several vendors that he knew. They had lots of nice quality U.S. specimens, which I especially like because I primarily collect U.S. minerals, fossils and lapidary material. Very quickly, I ran into a friend that I see every year at the Richmond Swap. He is a dealer from North Carolina who was in Tucson to

stock up for the coming year. During our chatting with each other, I noticed some nice older turquoise and silver jewelry. After my friend left, I examined some of those pieces and I ended up making one significant deal plus asked the dealer to put another piece on hold.

Interestingly, during the time while I was dickering with the vendor, another of Jeff’s rock friends named Tom came by. It just so happened that Tom is a top notch turquoise expert. He examined the piece and declared it was an excellent value. Further, Tom said it was probably made in New Mexico by Navajo Native Americans in the 1950’s or early 1960’s --- and he verified that the turquoise in the design was from the Blue Gem Mine in Nevada. It’s amazing what people know.

(That evening back in Sonoita, I consulted with our host Larry and recommended that he purchase the piece on hold for his wife for her upcoming 70th birthday the following week. He did. And later he emailed me that the turquoise and silver necklace was a big hit --- his wife loved it! So we were able to help him get something very special for her.)

Next, we went inside the Executive Inn and, after scouting the few dealers there, Jeff bought some HF – 40% hydrofluoric acid --- from a German dealer – to clean specimens. Provided that you follow the safety precautions (because it is a very dangerous chemical), it is really great for removing quartz from certain minerals.

Next, we checked out a group of about 30 dealers from Morocco who were set up in a warehouse area behind the Executive Inn. I did find a few good deals there before we drove north several miles to the new location for the “Miners Co-op Show”. There we saw everything from fossils to lapidary to mineral specimens and prices ran the gamut from cheap to ridiculously high. Nevertheless, we found some nice

things --- Jeff a 5 pound chunk of African banded malachite and me a nice specimen of California jade. At 3:30 we drove to the “Tucson Hotel City Center” (the old “Inn Suites Show”), where we knew the best mineral and fossil specimens were to be found. Although the parking lot had a “Full” sign, we drove around behind the hotel and found a single space just being vacated --- thank you Lord! Then we started perusing the 400 vendors on 2 floors of the very spread out several wings of the hotel. Sensory overload at its highest! We first visited a California friend and mineral dealer, John Seibel, where we made plans for supper together for later that evening. Then Jeff and I split up because Jeff was trying to negotiate a turquoise deal with a wealthy Chinese gentleman --- I say wealthy because the fellow drove a Bentley. I next checked out some of the many higher end dealers there --- “Collector’s Edge” was the first, with several splendid display cases of spectacular mineral specimens with price tags up to 6 figures. Whoa!



After about 10 more of these high end guys, I stopped by Joe Dorris’ (of “Prospectors” TV show fame) room where I met Joe and his lovely daughter Crystal who is the current reigning “Mrs. Colorado”. I

purchased two specimens of Crystal Peak, Colorado goethite (pronounced “ger-tite”) from Joe and promised to return the next day to see their other showroom on the second floor.

By now, it was approaching suppertime, so we rendezvoused at John Seibel’s room, then headed out to a local Chinese restaurant with John, Jeff, Rick Perry (another rock friend of Jeff’s) and me. After an enjoyable and relaxed meal, Jeff and I finally headed back to Sonoita, arriving around 9 p.m. Following “show and tell” with everyone about our adventures, we played more Rummikub before hitting the sack around 10:30 p.m.

Saturday January 30th was more of the same, but with a slower start due. We arrived in Tucson about 9 a.m. and completed the turquoise necklace deal for our host Larry. Then we returned to “Hotel Tucson City Center”, or Inn Suites, as everyone calls it. Jeff and I split up again to check out more vendors --- and I took lots of pictures along the way. I stopped in at Joe Dorris’ again and looked at their second floor room --- and wow --- found a much nicer and larger Colorado goethite specimen attached to a large smoky quartz crystal --- and priced about half of what I paid for the other two. I discussed it with Jeff and decided to ask Joe Dorris if I could bring back the other two goethites and buy this one. Joe is really a nice fellow and, true to his character, he said yes.



We spent the rest of the morning searching the many rooms of vendors --- which truthfully were all brimming with great material of high quality. After lunch together at the food tent in the courtyard, Jeff and I returned separately to shopping. I bought a large fossil megalodon shark's tooth South Carolina that measured 5-3/4" along one edge. Then I ventured into a room that had lots of specimens of gold --- much of it found in the United States. I purchased a nice showy piece from Nevada priced very close to the current "spot price" of bullion --- usually gold specimens are priced 3 to 5 times higher than the bullion value.



I decided to visit the nearby location for "Fine Minerals International" --- it was mind boggling to see so many stellar specimens in one location. The owner was obviously very savvy --- reportedly, he had purchased a run-down old house adjacent to the front entrance to the Inn Suites (think "location, location, location") and had completely gutted and remodeled it into a multi-room showcase of expensive display cabinets filled with exquisite mineral specimens of all sizes. According to rumor, the owner's father owns all the taxi cabs in New York City --- so he had plenty of capital to pull this off. Anyway, I purchased a gorgeous specimen of Illinois fluorite --- two colors --- purple over blue with nice color zoning --- completely double terminated with zero chips, dings or bruises. Wow. (To be continued....)

Member's Finds

The photos below are some of the many rocks, minerals, and fossils collected by Al and Carole Raucheisen during their "Western Wanderings" in the Canadian Rockies and Western U.S.





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.

An Upcoming SMRMC Event

June 18: La Plata, MD - Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club (SMRMC.org) will host a free POTLUCK PICNIC AND ROCK SWAP/SALE for all Eastern Federation (EFMLS) clubs and their families/friends. 9-5 on Saturday June 18th at Gilbert Run Recreational Park located at 13140 Charles Street, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 which is 8.8 miles east of La Plata, MD. In addition to minerals, fossils and lapidary for swap/sale, each attendee family is asked to bring a potluck dish to share and one (1) labeled specimen donation for an auction after lunch to help defray expenses. Ample parking for tailgate swapping/selling as well as 15 picnic tables under a covered pavilion. Onsite restrooms and handicap access. "Treasure Box" (donations welcome) of excess rocks and related tools for free for anyone to take. SMRMC will provide plates/cups/plasticware/sodas/bottled water (no alcohol). \$5 per carload Park Entry Fee for all vehicles. Park has a 60 acre lake and many recreational facilities (playgrounds, boat rentals, trails, etc.) for kids and adults. SMRMC.org for further details. Or contact Dave Lines at dave.lines@earthlink.net or 240-427-7062.

AN OFFICIAL SMRMC FIELD TRIP

Subj: An Official Trip of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club(*) --- Field Trip to Sterling Hill Super Dig, Ogdensburg, New Jersey on Saturday, April 23, 2016 and Franklin NJESA Gem and Mineral Show April 24, 2016.

Meeting Time --- 9:00 a.m. at the registration booth on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

Sunday, April 24, 2016 Franklin Show- casual, meet at show anytime 9-5.

Club Membership --- attendees must be a paid up member of a AFMS Club that carries insurance.

You must have your membership card with you at the registration booth.

Trip Leader --- Tina League, cell phone (240)210-5020; email: htleague@comcast.net.

Locations --- Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ and Franklin School, Franklin, NJ.

Directions to Sterling Hill: see google maps driving directions.

Safety --- The location will require signing a waiver. Common sense says to wear gloves, **eye protection is necessary**, wear sturdy shoes/boots and long pants, use sunscreen and stay hydrated. Stay alert.

What to Collect ---Fluorescent minerals at the dig. Everything under the sun at the show.

SEE WEBSITE: *Sterling Hill Super Dig*. All of the information is there in great detail. You must pre-register on the website: uvworld.org.

Recommended Equipment --- UV lamp (you can rent them there if you do not have one), black blanket or cloth if you want to cover up rocks during the day in the field to examine them) sturdy shoes/boots (no sneakers or sandals), work gloves, **safety glasses are a must, hard hat is required**, rock hammer, crack hammer, (chisels-only if you want to break some large rocks), 5 gal. bucket, small hand truck if you plan on collecting a lot of rocks (buckets get heavy very quickly- just remember there is a charge of 1.50 per pound), flashlight, Rain poncho nice to have. Bottled water/snacks.

Mine Descriptions / Hints --- Research the web --- good info and pix of what to expect at the place is readily available. If you do your homework, your experience will be more enjoyable. Be prepared to do a lot of walking, the mine and museum tours take up a great deal of time and miles....very well spent time! A must for first timers!!

Vehicles --- Plenty of parking near the mine. Signs will be posted.

Fees --- Pre-register. \$20.00 per person to attend. Equipment can be rented. Must be member of the club for our insurance to be credited to attendees.

Misc --- New requirements this year: children 5-12 can only collect in the mine dump run. 12 and over can collect in the pits with the adults. All children can go on the tours as long as they are able to climb the ladders. This is a "rain or shine" event. It is still cold there in April, dress accordingly.

Sign-up List --- Sign up by email by April 18th to Tina League at htleague@comcast.net or by phone at 240-210-5020.

Motels- there are plenty of motels within 20 miles of the mine. The ones south of Ogdensburg are much more inexpensive than the ones north near the ski resorts. If you are interested in going, let me know and I will tell you which hotel I am staying in.



**The Southern Maryland Rock and
Mineral Club**

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

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

For More information, call:

(301) 297-4575

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