

# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## Rock Talk



**September, 2016**

### Message from the President

September - School is back in session, it is getting cooler and the days shorter. With any trips to the field/quarry, be prepared for rapid weather/temperature changes and watch those around you. Make safety a key point with all on every outing.

With the end of the year coming up, please start thinking of how can you as a club member can help the club prosper by sharing one's talents and experiences to others. We all have gathered some tidbits of knowledge from many of the club members around us. Beading, faceting, lapidary, flint knapping, mineral and fossil identification, geology lessons, and many other lessons surrounding the hobbies we all love. I implore all to keep this sharing of knowledge going for the expansion of our hobby base. Remember - we are looking for new officers to take the club into the future years. Elections are in a few months. If you are interested - please contact Polly or myself!!

#### In this issue:

<b>EFMLS/AFMS News</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Upcoming Shows and Events</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Willis mountain first quarry trip</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Member's Finds</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Official Combined Field Trip Notice</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>The 24th Annual Richmond Gem &amp; Mineral Society Rock Sale and Swap</b>	<b>15</b>

#### Next Meeting:

**September 22, 2015@7:00 PM**

**Program: Continental Drift Video**

**Refreshments:  
Ralph Gamba**

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

## NO AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

EFMLS/AFMS NEWS by Timothy Foard



The September newsletter of the AFMS has the winners of the newsletter bulletin, article, and website contests.

This month's newsletter has several of the same articles present in the September EFMLS newsletter (see EFMLS box below)

The winners from the AFMS Endowment Fund drawing and competitive exhibits are also included in this issue.

For these and other information, visit [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



The EFMLS Newsletter for September has proposed bylaw changes, one of which is the inclusion of Paleontology as one of the interests in the objectives to include the number of clubs with fossils as a main interest. There is a call to bring back the HELP (Help Eliminate Litter Please) Project, initiated 50 years ago by rockhounds as an effort to remove litter from collecting areas. A "Safety Matters" article features protecting oneself from flying rock chips and dust when collecting or working with material.

For these and other information, visit [www.amfed.org.efmls](http://www.amfed.org.efmls)

### Upcoming Shows and Events: 2016

**October 15-16:** 44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show hosted by the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club. Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave. Bristol, CT (off Rt 6 near Stephens AutoMall).

**October 15-16** Annual Paul Desautels Micromineral Conference. Friends School, Baltimore, MD. For info and registration [cscrystals2@gmail.com](mailto:cscrystals2@gmail.com)

**October 22-23** –Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show and Sale and 66<sup>th</sup> Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Rochester Lapidary Society. Main Street Armory, 900 E Main St; Rochester, NY  
EFMLS Annual Meeting, Friday, October 21

**Nov 19–20.** Fairfax, VA. Northern Virginia Mineral Club, 25th Annual Show; in the HUB Ballroom, Student Union II Bldg., George Mason University (park in Lot A off Nottaway River Lane and take free shuttle to and from show); Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4;  
<http://www.novamineralclub.org/events/2016-show>

## Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News

This startup is protecting  
Afghanistan's prized rare emeralds

by [Parija Kavilanz](#) @CNNMoney August 29, 2016:  
5:43 PM ET

[http://money.cnn.com/2016/08/29/smallbusiness/afghanistan-emeralds-panjshir-aria/index.html?iid=ob\\_homepage\\_tech\\_pool](http://money.cnn.com/2016/08/29/smallbusiness/afghanistan-emeralds-panjshir-aria/index.html?iid=ob_homepage_tech_pool)

In Afghanistan, where decades of warfare have ravaged the country, there's a beautiful green oasis tucked between the mountains that's home to something rare and precious. The Panjshir Valley, located north of Afghanistan's capital Kabul, is an area rich with more than 172 emerald mines. Known as Panjshir emeralds, the gems boast a unique bluish-green color that make them among the country's most-iconic treasures.

Entrepreneur Habib Mohebi grew up in Kabul hearing about the emerald mines from friends local to that area. Years later, that knowledge would reconnect him to his homeland in a distinctive way. Mohebi is the co-founder of Aria Gems, a company that mines and exports Panjshir emeralds. While its mining operations are in Afghanistan, the business is headquartered in New York, and its gem processing and cutting center in Fargo, N.D. There, the rough emeralds are turned into polished stones.



miner holding a raw Panjshir emerald.

Since it launched in 2013, Aria Gems has become one of the largest suppliers of legally-mined Panjshir emeralds, having shipped more than 30,000 Carats of the stone. It also owns three underground mines and four acres of surface area emerald deposits in Panjshir Valley. Mohebi's entrepreneurial journey, however, didn't start with gems. He left Afghanistan for the U.S. in the 1980s, shortly after Russia invaded the country. He settled in Atlanta and opened a tailoring business.



The Panjshir Valley in Afghanistan.

That's where he met co-founder Forrest Snowden, a technologist working with IBM at the time, who frequented the shop. The two became friends. "I knew nothing about Afghanistan, but I lived in the middle of an Afghan-American community in



Atlanta at the time," Snowden said. "Every Friday, I'd sit with him at his shop and talk about his culture over a cup of tea." In return, Mohebi persistently asked Snowden to start a company together that could help rebuild Afghanistan. After Snowden left his job, he took up Mohebi's challenge. Along with Mohebi's brother Jamil, the trio first launched Aria Global Logistics in 2009.



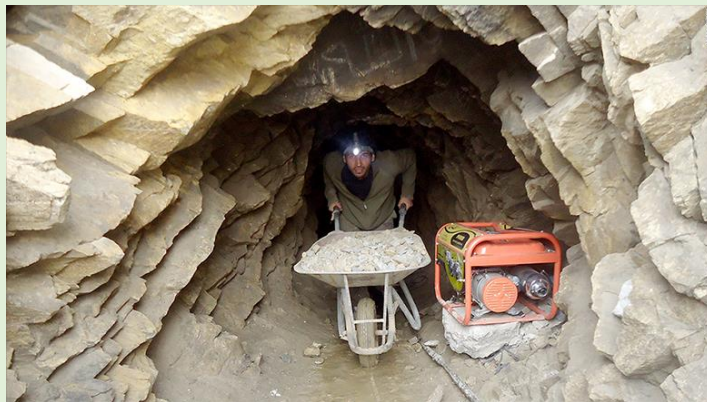
Raw Panjshir emeralds.

The startup helped facilitate U.S. federal contracts for construction, transportation and logistic development in Afghanistan. It later entered into joint ventures with local Afghan construction companies. "Our business was doing well," Snowden said. "Habib later told me about the emerald mines in Panjshir Valley. In 10 years of knowing him, he never [mentioned them before]." "I immediately made a business case for the global trade of emeralds and other gemstones in Afghanistan," he said.

Currently, the world's top emerald mining countries of Brazil, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Colombia -- which occupies the biggest piece of the mining pie -- produce a bulk of the global supply. Together, the countries bring in about \$1.4 billion worth of gems annually. By contrast, Afghanistan sells about \$50 million worth of Panjshir emeralds annually.

"Most of it is in illegal trade," said Snowden, adding that both sellers and miners are usually underpaid for the value of the gems. Said Mubin Shah, commercial attache with the Afghan Embassy on Washington, D.C. said the country's gems industry also lacks

regulation and safety protocols. "In Afghanistan, there is a grave issue of lack of education," said Shah. "There are many people in the gems industry who are unlicensed, unprofessional and extracting gems illegally."



An emerald miner in Panjshir valley.

In the Pajshir Valley, the emerald mines are owned and operated by community elders. "It's been that way for generations," said Snowden. But mining often involves explosives: "[It's] not only dangerous, the process also fractures the stone," he added.

In 2013, Snowden and Mohebi launched their second business, Aria Gems, as a part of an effort to legally trade Panjshir emeralds in global markets. The team only mines in areas free from conflict.



Aria Gems is training men and women in Afghanistan to cut and polish raw emeralds mined in the Panjshir Valley.

"We wanted to help the miners learn safer modern techniques that wouldn't damage the stone," said Mohebi. "[And] we're training men and women how to cut and polish the stone, too." The company

continues to have ambitious plans for its gems business.



A ring featuring a cut and polished Panjshir emerald.

By making the illegal gems trade in Afghanistan legal, Aria Gems wants to create more jobs in the country and generate more income. "We want to put Panjshir emeralds on the map," said Snowden. "There's no reason why Afghanistan can't one day be second to Colombia in emerald mining."

CNNMoney (New York) First published August 29, 2016: 5:43 PM ET

### THREE-IN-ONE FOSSIL: BUG INSIDE LIZARD INSIDE SNAKE

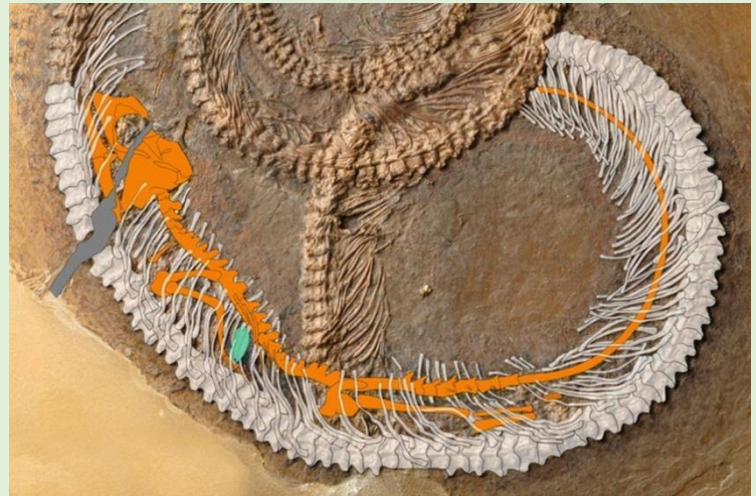
BY [DAVID MOSCATO](#) SEPTEMBER 11 2016

<http://www.earthtouchnews.com/discoveries/fossils/three-in-one-fossil-bug-inside-lizard-inside-snake>

Some 48 million years ago, a series of events unfolded near a deep lake in what is now Germany to bring us one of the world's most incredible fossils. First, an insect was caught and eaten by a small lizard. This would turn out to be the little reptile's last meal: it soon became lunch for a hungry snake. And before the snake had even finished digesting, it too died, its remains settling on the bottom of the lake. An insect inside a lizard inside a snake, all three buried and preserved together.

Determining the diet of an ancient animal is difficult because we can't simply watch it eat. Instead, palaeontologists often turn to indirect clues. The

shape and chemical structure of an animal's teeth, for example, can hint at its preferred food.



An interpretive drawing of the fossil find, overlaid on a photograph. Inside the belly of the snake (white), you can see the lizard outlined in orange. The blue mass is what remains of the lizard's insect meal. Image: [Krister T. Smith 2016](#)

Sometimes we get lucky and find more dramatic evidence like bite marks from a predator on the bones of its prey, or chunks of leftover food inside fossilised poop!

These clues are very informative, but what could be better than finding a fossilized last meal still sitting in a prehistoric animal's gut? It's rare, but not unheard of. Exactly those kinds of discoveries have taught us that some small pterosaurs ate fish, that ancient birds sometimes swallowed bugs and pollen, and that baby mammoths fed on their mothers' milk and dung just like modern elephants.

But three-in-one fossils? They're not just rare, they're practically non-existent. This snake-lizard-insect combo is only the second fossil ever discovered to show three levels of the food chain at once. "It's probably the kind of fossil that I will go the rest of my professional life without ever encountering again, such is the rarity of these things," said Krister Smith, who led the study of the extraordinary find. "It was pure astonishment."





The snake, like the lizard it dined on, was still a juvenile when it died. The small arrow shows the tip of the lizard's snout inside the snake. Image: [Krister T. Smith 2016](#)

The snake is an ancient serpent called *Palaeopython* (though it's actually related to boas, not pythons), and at a meter long, it was still a youngster when it died. The lizard, only about 20cm from snout to tail, is called *Geiseltaliellus*. A relative of the modern-day basilisk lizards found in American rainforests, it also wasn't quite an adult yet. As for the insect ... it's an unidentifiable mess of parts, reduced to chunks of shimmering exoskeleton in the lizard's belly.

The fact that both reptiles were immature individuals provides clues about how their diets changed over their lifetimes. Another larger boa from the same fossil site has been discovered with crocodile remains in its belly, indicating that these snakes turned to larger prey as they grew, just like their modern relatives. And a larger fossil of *Geiseltaliellus* was found with plants in its stomach instead of insects, so it seems these ancient lizards, like their living basilisk cousins, became more herbivorous with age.



*Geiseltaliellus* was a relative of modern-day basilisk lizards (pictured). Image: Sergiu Bacioiu, Flickr

The rare three-in-one fossil adds to evidence that the diets of these ancient animals, like those of their living basilisk cousins, became more herbivorous with age.

All of this incredible information would not have been preserved in most fossil sites, but these bones were found in the Messel Pit, a famous fossil locality and a UNESCO World Heritage site near the city of Darmstadt. The Messel sediments formed in an ancient volcanic lake, and they host some of the world's best-preserved fossils, including rare and delicate specimens of bats, birds and primates. Counting this new find, the site also has some of the world's only fossil evidence of the diet of prehistoric lizards and snakes.

Wondering about the first three-in-one rarity ever discovered? Reported in 2009 from another ancient lake over 250 million years old (that's older than the dinosaurs!), that fossil was a prehistoric shark whose belly held the remains of two larval amphibians, one of which had bones from a small fish in its stomach. The fossil record never ceases to amaze!

### **Belgian tourist fined \$4K for stealing Burgess Shale fossil from Yoho National Park Man was caught with a trilobite fossil stuffed into a sock in his backpack**

By Adrian Nieoczym, [CBC News](#) Posted: Sep 19, 2016 6:20 AM PT Last Updated: Sep 19, 2016 6:20 AM PT

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/tourist-fossil-fined-burgess-shale-stealing-1.3766674>



A Belgian tourist was fined \$4,000 for trying to steal this trilobite fossil from the Burgess Shale in Yoho National Park. (Parks Canada)

A tourist from Belgium has been fined \$4,000 by a B.C. provincial court after he tried to steal an ancient fossil from the world-famous Burgess Shale in Yoho National Park.

A hiking guide spotted the man going into a restricted area and "stuffing fossils into a backpack," park warden supervisor Jim Mamalis told Daybreak South guest host Alya Ramadan. The guide reported the man to wardens, who rushed to the area and arrested him. When they searched his backpack they found a trilobite fossil stuffed in a sock.



Signage near a restricted area of the Burgess Shale in Yoho National Park. (Parks Canada)

The tourist was charged with removing a natural object from a park with the intention of selling or trafficking.

"We charged on that offence based on a few circumstances. One, he was pretty deceptive when we first encountered him and we first interviewed him, until we discovered the fossil," said Mamalis.

"We weren't sure that he intended to trade or sell this fossil but it was possible or likely, and it was obvious that he intended to take it across an international border. "If he had taken it across an international border, he would have committed a couple of other offences." The provincial court in Golden imposed the minimum \$4,000 fine.

Mamalis said there is "a fairly active" black market in fossils from the Burgess Shale, a renowned fossil field with specimens more than 500 million years old. "The value can range from \$300 or \$400 for a fairly common trilobite fossil, but we've seen some of the more rare fossils from that area advertised for sale online for up to \$10,000," he said.

Officials are continually trying to refine their techniques for catching fossil thieves. "What we've come up with most recently is a pretty efficient system that involves trail cameras that transmit a signal instantly over the cell network, so when there's an intrusion into a restricted area, we'll get an image right away," said Mamalis.

*With files from CBC Radio's [Daybreak South](#)*





## Willis mountain first quarry trip

Article and Photo by Bill Curtin

I am a land surveyor by trade a rock hound by the grace of God. Debbie and I did not know what to look for on our first trip to the quarry. We collected several specimens of the ones we knew and a specimen of everything else that looked cool.



We did ask the geologist on site some questions about the type of rock we picked up. Two Virginia clubs have geologists as members that were helpful.

Being a surveyor, I would estimate we made Willis Mountain a few feet shorter on Saturday. All in all, it was a great trip!

## Member's Finds

Two weeks ago on a work-related trip, I went out searching for a species of non-native nightshade I remember seeing a few months earlier near a stream in southern Prince Georges County. That turned out to be a bust, and it was getting too dark to see anything clearly. As I walked back to the car, I picked up a piece of conglomerate that caught my attention. I visited this stream before, but never found anything of interest, and had long written this area off as being non-productive when it came to fossils.



The next day I took a closer look at the specimen and found, in addition to various rocks and mineral fragments, but to my surprise, also fragments of fossilized wood and bone (below photo). It looks like I will be exploring this area more in the future.



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



## Official Combined Field Trip Notice(\*)

**Field Trip to National Limestone Mt. Pleasant mills and Middleburg Quarries on Saturday Oct 29 from 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

(\* This trip is hosted by Montgomery County Club and may include other local EFMLS clubs.)

**Meeting Time** --- **Meet at the Quarry Office parking lot at 8:45 a.m. (no later!!)** for listening to owner's Christian testimony (his personal requirement as the cost of admission), a Safety Briefing and signing waiver forms. We plan to break for lunch together at 12 noon, then drive 8 miles to Middleburg Quarry as a group by 1:00 p.m..

**Trip Leader** --- Dave Lines

**Location** --- National Limestone quarry, 217 Quarry Rd., Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA 17853 (Approx. 200 miles and a 3-1/2 hour drive from La Plata according to MapQuest)

**Directions** --- (recommend follow directions from MapQuest)

**Special Requirements** --- Since this trip is hosted by Montgomery County Club, we must follow their rules. 1<sup>st</sup>, read and sign their (attached) rules/waiver AND **BRING IT TO THE QUARRY.** 2<sup>nd</sup>, if you find something, you are expected to share the collecting spot with everyone else (after you get some specimens for yourself). 3<sup>rd</sup>, the road to the small wavellite area is one way and narrow --- we may have to take turns digging. 4<sup>th</sup>, The quarry owner collects rocks and would appreciate the gift of any labeled specimens. 5<sup>th</sup>, kids (8 years old minimum and be a club member) are allowed, but must be closely supervised and remain next to their parent at all times.

**Safety** --- **steel-toed boots, hardhat, safety glasses, long pants, heavy gloves and bright colored safety vest.** Stay clear of all high walls.

**Note to Experienced members** --- please keep a watch on all of us and say something to those who may not recognize danger before they get into trouble.

**What to Collect** --- **Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry** --- Strontianite, Calcite, Dolomite, sometimes Fluorite -- and Wavellite. Strontianite is best found by breaking open likely looking rocks. A LARGE sledge hammer is helpful. Strontianite is DELICATE. Bring toilet paper/old newspaper to wrap your specimens in. On the top of the ridge, above/behind the quarry, we can dig for Wavellite. Wavellite is found on chunks of limestone/sandstone, which is loose and covered with red dirt/mud. You may need to dig down through several feet of this material to find the "layer" that contains the best wavellite. A short shovel and a pry bar/digging bar help. A garden scratcher is good. Wavellite is best found by wetting promising looking specimens and brushing off the red clay/mud with a stiff scrub brush. Bring a bucket and fill it with water at the office/trailer. This should be wrapped carefully, too. There are also fossils in the same pit with the Wavellite, Brachiopods and moonsnails seem to be most common. On occasion some rarer minerals have been found here as micros ---Variscite and Turquoise. **Middleburg Quarry** --- (fluorescent) flowstone (travertine stalagmites from ancient limestone caverns) and several minerals. Calcite and Fluorite are the most abundant. Sphalerite and galena (other sulfides) have also been found there as micros.

**Equipment/ clothing** --- Full safety gear for everyone at all times --- steel toed shoes/boots, safety glasses, hardhat, work gloves, long pants --- rock hammer, 3 - 4 pound crack hammer, chisels, stiff scrub brush, garden scratcher, 5 gal. bucket, old newspaper for wrapping specimens, small pry bar. Optional -- large sledge hammer, long pry bar, extra buckets, loupe/magnifying glass. Your best tools are sharp eyes. Clothing depends on the weather --- long sleeves/coveralls recommended. Rain poncho nice to have. A bow saw is nice to have if the road to the wavellite site has a fallen tree across it.

**Quarry Description / Hints** --- Both quarries are limestone quarries mined for material to be crushed for road construction and riprap. **Hint** ---Carefully search and investigate anything that is different.

**Vehicles** --- We will be allowed to drive our vehicles into the quarries, although the flowstone collecting area in the Middleburg Quarry may require us to park as much as 100 yards from the material --- a dolly or wheelbarrow may be helpful.

**Misc.** --- Drinking water, sunscreen, lunch/snacks, "Thank" the quarry owner. Bring signed Waiver from Montgomery Club. Bring a camera and take some pictures for our Newsletter.

**Sign-up List** --- Sign up at the September or October club meetings or by email to [dave.lines@earthlink.net](mailto:dave.lines@earthlink.net)

\*\*\*\*If you sign up and later find that cannot make the trip, **call Dave at 240-427-7062** and tell him.



**Assumption of risks, waiver, and indemnification agreement (binding for all fieldtrips)**

For the purpose of this waiver "field trip facilitators", also referred to as "releasees", include the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County (GLMSMC), owners, operators, and managers of properties visited as part of the field trip, any third party facilitating, supporting, or managing the field trips, and any affiliates, agents, or officers and directors of these entities. Fieldtrips are events, including educational and collecting trips, organized or announced by the GLMSMC, its officers and directors, or their agents. This agreement applies to all such trips as well as activities involving preparation for or transportation to the event.

**ASSUMPTION OF RISKS**

Field trip attendees are solely responsible for their own safety. If the attendee brings minor children, the attendee is solely responsible for their safety and supervision. Fieldtrip facilitators provide no supervision of children.

Quarries and other field trip sites have hazardous areas that cannot be made completely safe. Collecting is inherently risky. Risks include falls, wall collapses, collisions with mobile equipment, injury from falling material, flying material, inhalation of dust including asbestos, snakes, insects, contact with toxic natural or man-made material, explosions, and damage to personal vehicles.

Neither the club or property owners provide any insurance or funds to treat injuries that occur during collecting. Attendees must rely on their own insurance and financial resources to handle such events.

The fact that the club or property owner may insist attendees follow safety or etiquette rules or warn that an area or an activity is unsafe does not imply a duty to forbid attendees from or warn them away from all unsafe spots or unsafe activities. Attendees should not assume an area is safe just because others let you work there or are working there themselves. Attendees must use their own judgment, accept the consequences, and hold all others harmless.

Attendees recognize that the fieldtrip facilitators do not make any representations about the character or conduct of any third parties on the property or attending the fieldtrip and are not responsible for their conduct.

**INDEMNIFICATION FROM ALL CLAIMS**

All attendees agree to indemnify, save, and hold harmless the releasees from any and all liability, causes of action, claims, demands, costs, or debts of any kind incurred or arising from participation in any field-trip, even if such cause is an injury or property damage resulting from error, omission, or negligence by one or more of the releasees. Attendees agree that this waiver is binding on any heirs, insurers, or third parties that may bring a claim on their behalf.

If the terms of this waiver are unreasonable or unacceptable, one must not participate in the field trip.

**INDEMNIFICATION OF RELEASEES AGAINST CLAIMS FROM MINOR CHILDREN OR OTHERS IN MY CARE**

If despite signing this waiver, I or another person, including my minor child, makes a claim resulting from my, my minor child, or dependents participation in this event or other fieldtrip, I will indemnify, save, and hold harmless each of the releases from any litigation expense, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage or costs any may incur as the result of such claim.

**OTHERS ARE PERMITTED TO INCLUDE PARTICIPANTS IN PHOTOGRAPHS OF FIELDTRIPS (PHOTO RELEASE)**

All participants grant to the fieldtrip facilitators and participants the right to take photographs of them and their family members or property present at the trip. The participants authorize any of the photographers or fieldtrip facilitators, their assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same or in print and/or electronically. Participants agree that these individuals or organizations may use such photographs with or without their names for any lawful purpose, including for example, publicity, web content, or advertising.

**SEVERABILITY and JURISDICTION**

The attendee agrees that the venue for any dispute related to this agreement or any fieldtrip shall be the State of Maryland and the County of Montgomery.

The attendee hereby expressly agrees that this release and waiver is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by applicable law and that if any portion hereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

**AGREEMENT TO FOLLOW RULES**

The attendee recognizes that participating in these fieldtrips is a privilege subject to revocation by any of the releasees. Attendees agree to follow all trip rules and agree to leave the property if asked to do so by the property owner or representative or employee of the property owner or trip leader, regardless of whether the attendee agrees with the decision. If the attendee disputes a decision of a fieldtrip leader, he or she must still follow the instructions of the leader and address the issue according to the rules of the respective club. The attendee agrees not to litigate such disputes and agrees that the above indemnification agreement applies to any such litigation he or his agent pursues on his behalf.

The undersigned has read, understands, and agrees to the above "Assumption of risks, waiver, and indemnification agreement," agrees to follow the rules (below or attached), and represents that they are a member in good standing of a participating club and are attending voluntarily and for their own enjoyment. I further acknowledge that my agreement applies to all GLMSMC fieldtrips.

_____	_____	_____
Participant (signature)	Printed Name	Date

If participant is a minor:

_____	_____	_____
parent signature	Parent name	Date



## Rules

### 1) Required safety equipment.

**The following equipment is required for everyone, including minors. Collectors missing required safety equipment will be asked to leave.**

- **Hard Hat** (ANSI Z89.1, certified for industrial head protection and with a mfg sticker showing it is no more than 5 years old. These are readily available at home improvement centers (ie. Home Depot, Lowes) and hardware stores. Bike helmets and other sport helmets are NOT suitable).
- **Eye protection** – safety glasses and/or goggles
- **Steel toed shoes** (boots that provide ankle support are far safer than low cut steel toed shoes). Soft toed sport shoes are not safe or acceptable.
- **Gloves**
- **Long pants**
- **Fluorescent safety construction vest** (some quarries will require these, we may not know ahead of time).

**Other safety equipment** (we don't check for this, but you should use it!):

- **sunscreen**
- **drinking water**
- **fully charged cellphone**
- **snacks**
- **raingear**
- **bandaids for minor cuts**

2) **Children:** I will post the age limits with each trip. In quarries where children are permitted, parents are responsible and assume all risk. Parents should stay with their children, watch them, and leave with them when they become too restless to be safely monitored. Children must have the required safety equipment specified above.

3) **General rules:** Collectors must RSVP by the date specified in the announcement. Quarries are hurting from the recession and don't want to send their employees out to supervise only two or three collectors, so we need to give an accurate headcount ahead of time. I will have to be less lax about this going forward. If I find I don't have enough people the Thursday or Friday before the trip, we may have to cancel. **DO NOT BE A NO-SHOW!!**

Collectors who are late may miss the safety briefing and hence the privilege of collecting. Please be on time!

It is important to obey all instructions of the group leader, the group leader of any other participating club, and quarry employees. Failure to do so or unsafe behavior can lead to a collector being forbidden to participate in future field-trips, and other sanctions.

In any site covered by OSHA or MSHA rules (quarries, construction sites), hard hats, eye protection, and hard toe boots must be worn at all times.

All trips will have a group leader, either the field-trip chair or his designee. Most quarries don't want groups entering without a leader.

If you find a spot and need to get a tool to work it or take a break, leave a tool by it to mark it as a spot. Honor other people's spots.

If you find a nice boulder, are studying it or starting to "work it" and another collector, who is also searching the area informs you that he "found" that a few minutes ago, politely thank him and let him know that you have decided to work on it.

**Don't "claim"** any spot you are not currently working, unless you are merely getting equipment to help you work it or taking a break. Let others have the joy of discovery. If you claim more than one spot at a time or keep searching for new spots, don't complain if someone starts working one of them.

Removal all tools, food wrappers, and trash from the site; don't be a litter bug!

#### 4) **Collecting equipment.**

- Backpack for tools, etc.
- Water--for drinking and rinsing potential specimens.
- Newspaper & boxes -- for wrapping & carrying specimens
- Five gallon bucket (or something similar for schlepping things around)
- A 3-5 pound blacksmith's hammer or hand held sledge. Do not use carpenter's hammers!
- Cold chisels or masonry chisels. Use wood chisels only if you enjoy ruining your tools and showering yourself and your friends with shrapnel.
- Long arm 8+ pound wrecking hammer--for breaking big boulders.
- An old pocket knife or small screw driver for prying apart small delicate specimens.
- Magnifying glass or loup for examining smaller specimens.
- Camera
- Battery powered UV lamp & dark shroud for lamping fluorescent minerals.
- Pen and notepad for signing safety briefing log and recording names, details, and useful information.

#### 5) **Photography.**

Photography is permitted. If the photos of company equipment are expected to be posted on the website, please ask the host employee for permission first. Please also inspect photos so that photos that may show inadvertent safety issues (e.g. someone who removed their goggles) are not distributed or posted on the web. We have had situations where this has created problems; and also situations where companies have used photos from club members in their material.

--

**David J. Fryauff, GLMSMC field trip chairman**

**240-277-7206**

**fryauffd@yahoo.com**



# The 25th Annual Richmond Gem & Mineral Society Rock Sale and Swap

**Saturday, November 12, 2016**

**9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

*The Rock Sale/Swap is indoors (overflow will be in the parking lot), so come rain or shine!  
Open to children and adults (from novice to expert) to purchase or trade (swap) mineral, gem, fossil,  
shell, and lapidary specimens.*

## **Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall 1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229**

- Doors open at **7:00** a.m. for inside setup. Inside table fees are \$20.00 per table (regardless of 6' or 8' table size) and are limited (44 total tables). RGMS will provide all interior tables which are a mix of 6' and 8'.
- Parking lot spaces are \$20 for approximately 6 spaces and you must provide your own tables.
- Everyone please bring your own table coverings.

To register for a table(s) or exterior space, please download the registration form and mail (with fee) to the address listed on the form. We suggest a **2** table limit. Table reservations are based on "first received, first assigned".

**ALL PARTICIPANTS - PLEASE LABEL YOUR MATERIAL** Please have at least one flat of good material specifically labeled for children and novice collectors for swap (trade) or give away. Promote the hobby!

To defray sale/swap costs, RGMA asks that each seller/swapper provide a least one nice specimen or similar item for our annual auction. Please no junk!

Food and beverages are available at near-by restaurants. Restroom facilities are available in the building.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andy Dietz ([dietziv@yahoo.com](mailto:dietziv@yahoo.com)) or  
Bob Simon ([dino\\_safaris@yahoo.com](mailto:dino_safaris@yahoo.com)).

**DIRECTIONS:** Since 1998 the swap has been at this location in Henrico County near Regency Square Mall and Douglas S. Freeman High School.

### **North or South of Richmond, Virginia:**

Use I-95 to Exit 79 to I-64 West (North of Richmond City).

Leave I-64 at Exit 181A (South) on Parham Road.

Proceed south on Parham Road for about 1.5 miles and **TURN LEFT ONTO EAST RIDGE ROAD**. (A right turn at this intersection takes you onto Quioccasin Road to Regency Square Mall).

The Ridge Baptist Church and Meeting Hall are 400 feet on the right, across from Kroger's Grocery.

**MEETING HALL IS THE WHITE BUILDING** at the rear of the parking lot.

There is ample parking in front of the Meeting Hall. Swap signs will mark both entrances.

### **East or West of Richmond, Virginia**

Use I-64 to Exit 181A

(South) and follow the directions above.

**North or South of Richmond, Virginia:**

Use I-95 to Exit 79 to I-64 West (North of Richmond City).

Leave I-64 at Exit 181A (South) on Parham Road.

Proceed south on Parham Road for about 1.5 miles and TURN LEFT ONTO EAST RIDGE ROAD. (A right turn at this intersection takes you onto Quioccasin Road to Regency Square Mall).

The Ridge Baptist Church and Meeting Hall are 400 feet on the right, across from Kroger's Grocery.

MEETING HALL IS THE WHITE BUILDING at the rear of the parking lot.

There is ample parking in front of the Meeting Hall. Swap signs will mark both entrances.

**East or West of Richmond, Virginia**

Use I-64 to Exit 181A

(South) and follow the directions above.

## **Richmond Gem and Mineral Society (RGMS) 24th Annual Sale and Swap**

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

**NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF TABLES (\$20 EACH)** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO --**

**RICHMOND GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY (RGMS)**

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH FEE TO --**

**ANDY DIETZ  
12417 GLEN CARRIE ROAD  
ASHLAND, VA 23005**

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF TABLES (\$20 EACH)** \_\_\_\_\_



**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO --**

**RICHMOND GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY (RGMS)**

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH FEE TO --**

**ANDY DIETZ  
12417 GLEN CARRIE ROAD  
ASHLAND, VA 23005**



**The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club**

**Meetings take place on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
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](http://SMRMC.org)**