

# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## Rock Talk



**February, 2018**

**Next Meeting:  
February 27, 2018@7:00 PM**

**Program  
Collecting Eocene Insect Fossils at  
Glacier National Park  
Dale Greenwalt**

**Refreshments  
Bill Curtin  
Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift  
Road, Clinton, MD.**

### **Announcement for Club Members from Glenda Jordan from the Clearwater Nature Center:**

With the switch to ParksDirect, all of our club memberships are now sold starting from the actual date of purchase. There are no longer any "partial term" memberships due to having memberships run a strict Jan 1 – Dec 31 term with people purchasing a membership after July 1 getting a pro-rated discount.

For example, a person buys a membership on February 1, 2018. That membership will expire on February 1, 2019. They can renew their membership at any time before that expiration date (no longer are we locked into having to wait until after Dec. 1 as before). The renewal will simply add on an additional year from the original expiration date.

Since there is no longer any annoying pro-ration amounts involved with the membership term period, it makes it easy for existing members to just mail us a check for the full amount to renew if they don't want to drive to the center to renew in person.

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**SMRMC Adult 18+ :** \$15 Resident;  
\$20 Non-Resident

**SMRMC Youth (8-17) :** \$10 Resident;  
\$13 Non-Resident

**Lapidary Adult 18+ :** \$20 Resident; \$26  
Non-Resident

**Basket Bunch Youth/Adult 13+ :** \$25  
Resident; \$33 Non-Resident

Checks made out to : M-NCPPC / Clearwater  
Nature Center (either is fine)

Address:  
Clearwater Nature Center  
Attn: Glenda Jordan  
11000 Thrift Road  
Clinton, MD 20735

## JANUARY MINUTES

Submitted by Dave Lines

**DATE:** Meeting called to order on January  
23, 2018 at 7:08 p.m. by President, Sondra  
Fielder.

### VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS:

Katie Martin; has visited the club before and  
is interested in joining and to attend our field  
trips

**MEMBERSHIP:** Joe, Membership  
Chairman (absent due to eye operation).  
Fifteen members present at meeting. So far,  
28 of our 50 members from last year had  
renewed membership dues. Glenda from the  
Nature Center Staff is available now to renew  
membership dues tonight. FYI, club dues will  
no longer be "pro-rated" --- rather we will pay  
a full year of dues and membership will  
expire one year from the date we pay dues.

**NEWSLETTER:** Tim Foard, Editor --  
- no report.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Dave,  
Secretary --- Minutes for November meeting  
approved.

**TREASURER:** Dave, Treasurer  
Treasury in good shape.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Dave, Field Trips  
Chairman

A. Recent past trips --- none

B. Upcoming trips ----

(1) Feb 17, 2018 --- **Saturday, 10:00 am to  
3:00 pm EST, to Purse State Park.** Sign up  
list passed around at meeting. 7 signed  
up. Trip Info Sheet to be emailed later to all  
who signed up. Guest visitor from  
Vancouver, Canada rock club expected to join  
us.

(2) March 24, 2018 --- Chestnut Ridge,  
Virginia for quartz crystals. Sign up list  
passed around at meeting. 9 signed up. Trip  
info sheet to be emailed in early February.

(3) Possible TBD field trip to Vulcan  
Manassas Quarry (for prehnite and zeolite  
minerals) in April depending on weather.

(4) Long range planning: Dave passed out a  
"possible" trip list for 2018 which included  
both local and long distance trip suggestions  
to 12 states. Definite (put it on your calendar  
now): we will do a club trip to Mount Ida,  
Arkansas on Oct 12-13, 2018 for the  
31<sup>st</sup> Championship Quartz Crystal Dig". We  
will rent a large house near Mt. Ida for 1

week. Dig Registration starts June 1<sup>st</sup> -- \$75 per person. Sign-up sheet started now.

**PROGRAMS:** Carole, Programs Chairman (absent --- traveling again) --- Tonight's program is a DVD of "Jackson's Crossroads Amethyst Mine - Georgia" -- a presentation by one of the mine owners at the 2016 Dallas Symposium. Snacks brought tonight by Sondra and several other members. Thank you! February snacks = Unknown who signed up.

Upcoming programs: February = Dr. Dale Greenwalt of the Smithsonian will present his research of "Fossil Insects of the Eocene Kishenehn Formation in NW Montana".

**WEBSITE:** Bob, Webmaster – absent; no report

**OLD BUSINESS:** A. EFMLS Dues --- - Unknown whether dues were paid yet. Will ask Carolyn Weinberger if they received the dues and the Club Info. Dave had mailed the EFMLS Membership form --- all filled out with names and addresses of new club officers and all club information --- to Michael Patterson on 12-11-17. On 1-13-18, Dave also asked Michael by email about the status of EFMLS dues --- but no reply was received before the meeting. [**\*Note:** On Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, Bob (as previous Acting Club President) received an email from Carolyn Weinberger of the EFMLS saying our Clubs had not paid the 2018 EFMLS dues and had not submitted the 2018 EFMLS Club Info Form. Carolyn further indicated that if dues were not paid, our club would be dis-enrolled on March 1st from EFMLS and no longer eligible for EFMLS insurance benefits. On 2-04-18,

Dave mailed to EFMLS a copy of the "filled-in" EFMLS Club Info Sheet and his personal check for \$85.75 {for 49 members as of 12-31-17 per EFMLS rules}. On 2-12-18, Michael emailed Bob that he would reimburse Dave the \$85.75 with his own funds, but that the Nature center could not reimburse the Club or me. We need to resolve how EFMLS dues get paid each year. We need a long range solution to the problem.]

C. Regarding the money in the club treasury, Harry and Tina found that suitable Club T-shirts --- short sleeves, safety yellow-green color, with black club logo on front left pocket --- could be purchased online for \$12.50 each. The Club voted to approve that the club treasury pay \$5.00 per shirt -- \$250 total --- toward the cost of the shirts. Harry volunteered to honcho this project and will start a sign-up sheet.

D. Regarding the money in the club treasury, the other idea discussed at the Oct 2017 meeting of "giving \$50 honorariums to speakers to help cover their travel expenses" was approved for up to 4 speakers per year (total of \$200 per year for this year).

E. Gary offered to sell UV LED flashlights of his design for \$60 each to anyone interested.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. 2018 Rock Club dues are able to be paid tonight since Glenda is present and she alone on the CWNC Staff understands how to use their new computer system.

B. Swap at Gilbert Run Park – Dave will NOT do it this year due to too much effort and not enough support from other Region IV Clubs.

C. Region IV Vice President --- The position is open and volunteers welcomed.

12. Door Prize Drawings --- (prizes provided by Dave)

**ADJOURNED:** Business Meeting  
adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

### Upcoming Shows and Events: 2018

**March: 3 – 4: 55th annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. University of Delaware – Wilmington Campus, Arsht Conference Center; 2800 Pennsylvania Ave (Rt 52), Wilmington, DE 19806**

**March 24-25: 49th Annual Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Vol. Fire Co Social Hall, 111 Lake Rd; Wysox, PA.**

**March 24-25: 2018 Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineral Society & Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA (PA Turnpike exit 333, or I-476, exit 20).**

### English Flint and Chert Nodules found in Tappahannock VA

Article and photo by Dave Lines

Ann and I celebrated our 26th wedding anniversary recently by exploring the Northern Neck of VA and staying in a Bed and Breakfast in Tappahannock. Tappahannock was established in 1645 and is older than Richmond, Fredericksburg and

even Williamsburg. When we visited what I assumed was the old wharf area of Tappahannock along the Rappahannock River, I noticed some flint nodules on an exposed area of the shoreline. Since native flint is rare along the east coast of the USA, I was surprised to see it. Furthermore this flint looked exactly like several flint nodules from England that I had been given by a flintknapper at the Primitive Technology Society meeting at Oregon Ridge State Park. When I began thinking about the possible sources of this material, I reasoned that it could have been used as a "ballast" in the wooden sailing ships from England to the colonies. Turns out that I was correct -- I googled "flint and chert nodules used as ballast" and found numerous websites and articles that basically all said that flint and chert nodules were routinely used as ballast in ships sailing from England to the American colonies. When these ships reached the colonial ports, this ballast was no longer needed and was sometimes used to pave the streets with cobblestones, but much was simply dumped overboard. Various sites mentioned that English flint and chert nodules can be found in all colonial ports on the East Coast up through Nova Scotia, Canada. Some articles even mentioned that since flintlock rifles and pistols were popular in the 17th and 18th centuries in Colonial America, there was some evidence that flint ballast was used by the colonists to make their own "flints". Interestingly, it was also mentioned in some of the articles that Native





Americans even started their own attempts to manufacture crude "flints" for the colonists using this material as well as using it to make flint tools for themselves. The flint nodules that I found ranged in size from one to three inches across and many showed sign that they had been "worked" (chipped). The moral of this story is you never know what a rockhound will find. So always keep looking."

### Field Trip Report: Crocodile Teeth over 56 million Years Old

Article by Dave Lines (see individual photos for credits)

Eight of us (Orion, Arion, Rich, Erin, Cheryl, Charlie, Tim and I) met about 10 a.m. at the small parking area for "Nanjemoy Wildlife Management Area" along Riverside road in western Charles County, Maryland for a fossil collecting trip along the Potomac River. Erin had joined us as a guest --- having traveled from Vancouver, Canada to watch her daughter play in a hockey tournament in Washington. She belongs to a Rock Club in Vancouver and collects mostly minerals, so searching for fossils was new for her. Since this was also a "first" for four of our

members, we spent a few minutes looking at some sample specimens to familiarize everyone with what to find. Then after our Safety Brief --- "don't dig in the cliffs, beware of our surroundings and avoid where the cliff is heavily eroded and has created an unstable area" --- we walked about a half mile to the beach and began searching for sharks teeth.



(photo by Arion Jurkowski)

Though the predicted low tide was several hours away, everyone found some small fossil sharks teeth laying on right on the surface of the exposed beach. The weather was cold (35 degrees F) and sunny with a northeast wind (from the land toward the river). This made for exceptionally good conditions because the water was flat calm and clear near the shore. The most productive portion of the beach seemed to be right at the waterline --- we could watch the teeth gently wash out of the sand. Most were the narrow ones that reportedly were from an extinct goblin shark. We also found pebbles of Patuxent River Stone which can later be tumble polished into beautiful specimens.

After an hour or so of getting everyone oriented to finding sharks teeth, we moved along the beach about a mile to where many sections of the cliffs had recently fallen into the river. There we concentrated on finding fossil oysters and turritellas -- actually the

internal, screw shaped “fossil molds” of turritelas.



(Photo by Richard Simcsak)

Everyone found some nice ones. We also kept looking for teeth and, eventually, I found a nice “otodus” shark tooth which was very clean and sharp --- with “feeding damage” on the tip. This specimen appeared to have just washed out of a section of fallen cliff. Judging from the symmetrical shape, the tooth was from the front center portion of the shark’s jaw. One can appreciate that it is an actual “fossil record” of the animal losing the tooth while biting a hard bone during feeding. Since we were looking in the “Aquia” geological formation from the Paleocene era, it happened 56 to 59 million years ago. Incredible.

Sometime around 1 p.m., Erin thanked each of us and said her goodbyes and started making her way back so she could attend her daughter’s hockey game. We very much enjoyed having Erin join us as a guest --- she was an outgoing person, a great collector and quickly learned what to look for and diligently kept at it the entire time. She certainly will be welcomed back in the future.

Shortly afterward (I forget exactly?), Cheryl asked me to identify a black conical tooth with a hollow base that she had found. Wow! It was a fossil crocodile tooth. Super! Everyone wanted to see it. Within 30 minutes, Tim found another one in the water --- still clear and calm --- at the water’s edge. This tooth was even nicer. I also found a small one --- maybe two of them --- as I am not certain about one.



(Photo by Cheryl Reese)

Another interesting find was by Charlie. He called it a “Japanese Philosopher’s Stone”. It is a relatively smooth fist-sized chunk of light tan colored quartzite that resembles typical Southern Maryland gravel --- except that it contained the fossilized tracks of a tube worm named “skolithos”. A little research on the web shows that it was formed when the quartzite rock was “sand” which had a colony of tubeworms living in it in the Cambrian era --- some 500 million years ago. These tracks are “trace fossils”. Another website from Virginia said “skolithos” were Virginia’s oldest trace fossils. Now we know a little bit more about “the rest of the story” (as Paul Harvey used to say).



(Photo by Charlie Zeller)

Around 2 p.m. the weather changed --- rather dramatically --- as it quickly clouded over and began to sleet --- albeit just for a short time. Three from our group decided to start back --- it was a long walk. Four of us remained about half an hour longer as we were hooked on the idea of finding croc teeth. When it started to mist, we took the hint and started our hour long return. By the time we reached the parking area, it was raining lightly.

Overall, it was an excellent trip. It was fun and everyone stayed safe and weather conditions were perfect for collecting (although Charlie reported later that his return drive on the Beltway was slowed to 35 mph due to the snow and rain). We certainly all found some great specimens as confirmed by the following pictures.

### Member's Finds

Dave Lines commented "Native American artifacts recently collected on the shores of the Patuxent River in Calvert County, Md. The yellow ones are made of local "jasper" and the largest ones are about 2 inches long. The small yellow one is a "thumb scraper" of jasper. The white ones are white quartz -- one a scraper and the other the tip of an arrowhead." Photo by Dave Lines



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.



## **Thin Section Field Trip**



Thin Section Field Trip

Polish a rock.

Glue it to a microscope slide.

Cut it off at about a thousandth of an inch.

Look at it through a polarizing microscope.  
You are looking at a thin section, a research tool in geology for over a hundred years, and a way to make amateurs like me say “Wow!”

Like to look at some?

Come to the Thin Section Field Day, at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, March 24 and March 31.

More info to follow.

If you plan to come, please RSVP to [jfweidner42@gmail.com](mailto:jfweidner42@gmail.com), so we know how many people to prepare for

### **SMRMC OFFICERS**

#### **PRESIDENT**

Sondra Fielder

[Sondra611@verizon.net](mailto:Sondra611@verizon.net)

#### **Membership Chairman**

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**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual** 

**MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM**

MICROMOUNTERS BRING MICROSCOPE, MICROB AND EXTENSION CORD

**SWAP-SELL-LEARN**

**SATURDAY MARCH 10th, 2018**  
9:00 AM-3:00 PM

SPONSORED BY: *Leidy Microscopical Society* 

**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
140 TRENTON ROAD  
FAIRLESS HILLS, PA

**TABLE SPACE \$12.00**  
(HALF OF AN 8 FOOT TABLE)

\*\*\*\*Lunch will be provided \*\*\*\*

**RAFFLE DOOR PRIZES**

**CLUB SALES TABLE—MINERALS AND SUPPLIES**

Reservations: Send Check for \$12.00 per table space, make checks payable to:  
Don McAlarney, 916 Senator Rd. East Norriton, PA 19403 (610) 594-1364  
Email: [Don.mcalarney@lape.com](mailto:Don.mcalarney@lape.com)

**Official Field Trip of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club to Chestnut Ridge, bath, County, VA for Quartz Crystals (loose and clusters)** --- Possible Joint Trip with 2 other clubs – max of 30 people. (quartz crystals are plentiful – everyone will find them). Trip Leader = Dave Lines

**Date:** Sat, March 24, 2017

**Meeting Time/Location:** 8:00 a.m. at Burger King on South Side of U.S Rt 250 (west) (physical address is “1034 Richmond Rd., Staunton, VA 24401”)

**Food/Drinks:** Individual responsibility --- recommend bring lunch, snacks, bottled water

**Topography:** **Very steep climb** to site over loose rocks/leaves/logs up a mountain for about a mile. Crystals in 2 locations --- ½ way and near top (2,700' elevation). Travel by foot only. Trip leader will mark a trail (pretty much straight up) with surveyor's tape so you can climb at your own pace.

**Tools:** Rock hammer, 4 pound hammer, safety glasses (for eye protection), garden scratcher, 5 gallon bucket/**backpack** (for your rocks), old newspaper to wrap/protect your specimens. Optional: fold-up Army shovel & small screen to sift dirt.

**Clothing:** light winter clothing, brown cotton gloves, ball cap, sturdy footwear (**good hiking boots with ankle support and deep tread**). Recommend coveralls or old clothes while collecting so you can change back into clean clothes before your ride home. It can be chilly, so cheap cotton gloves with tips of index finger and thumb cut off (to pick up xls) are very helpful. A cheap plastic roll-up poncho is always good insurance.

**Special remarks:** No restroom facilities

**SAFETY NOTE:** -- this is a fairly difficult trip. You must be in good physical condition --- i.e., able to hike 2+ miles with your equipment (and return with specimens). \*\*\* If you have serious physical ailments, don't go. **Note to “first timers”** – yes, this is a long trip and a physically challenging climb; yes, kids can go; yes, you can find some crystals along the way to the top.

**Approx Timeline:** 8 am, meet at Burger King and caravan to Chestnut Ridge; 9 am – Arrive at parking area at foot of mountain; 9-11 am, Climb mountain; 11 am to 3 or 4 pm, Find Crystals; 4-5 pm, Descend mountain; 5-10 pm, Drive home

**Directions:** Use a Virginia state map --- from Southern MD, I-95 to I-295 (W) to I-64 (W) to I-81 (N) to Exit 222. Take U.S. 250 west approx 1 mile. Meet at Burger King on left (1034 Richmond Rd., Staunton, VA).

**Fatigue/Rest:** You might consider staying overnight at a motel in Staunton.

**Weather:** \*\* Snow cover / predicted bad weather such as snow, rain and/or all-day below freezing temperatures could cause this trip to be cancelled.

**Trip Sign-up:** (include your name and **CELL PHONE number**) sign-up at Feb meeting; or by email to [dave.lines@earthlink.net](mailto:dave.lines@earthlink.net);

**\*\*\*\* Please call Dave at least 12 hours ahead (by 8 pm on Friday March 23) to confirm that you WILL attend trip\*\*\*\***

**Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society  
Almost Spring Auction!!!**

*Date: Friday, March 9th, 2018*

*Time: 7:30 pm (viewing at 7:00 pm)*

**Place: Location**

**Westchester Community Center  
2414 Westchester Ave., Oella Md.21043**

**Items that can be found are Gemstones,  
Cutting rough, Jewelry, Minerals, Fossils,  
Books, Magazines, and Lapidary equipment.**

*Refreshments are available. Directions:*

***From the north:***

***Take I-695 to US 40 west (exit 15B). Turn left on N. Rolling Rd. Turn right at Old Fredrick Rd. (You will pass through 1 roundabout). Turn right on Oella Ave. Turn left on Westchester Ave. Westchester Community Center is on the right.***

***From the south:***

***Take I-695 to Fredrick Rd. (exit 13). Turn left on Fredrick Rd. Follow Fredrick Rd. approx. 2.7 miles. Turn right on Oella Ave. Turn left on Westchester Ave. Westchester Community Center is on the right.***

## The American Fossil Federation Annual Fossil Auction

The American Fossil Federation (AFF) will be holding its 7<sup>th</sup> annual fossil auction on Sunday March 11, 2018 at the North Bowie Community Center (3209 Stonybrook Dr., Bowie, MD).

Doors open at 11:30 AM.

Admission is free.

Free refreshments will be available.

AFF business meeting begins at noon.

Auction will begin at 12:30.

All sales are **Cash Only**.

We are asking that you bring in an assortment of fossils from various localities and times periods along with other fossil related materials (posters, fossil replicas, display cases, books, and other items related to fossil collecting) to be included in the auction.

Pictures of some of the fossils we will have this year:





The Gem Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County



## We're having an AUCTION!

A vast quantity of material from the estate of a long time collection -- **many museum quality mineral specimens** as well as large and small cabinet sized from all over the world, including some closed locations. Some specimens are still in their originally wrapping.



Open to all – members and non-members, dealers. Please join us.

When: Saturday April 14

9:00am auction preview

10:00am live auction starts 3:00pm live auction ends

**note: payment to be made in cash**

Where: Rockville Senior Center

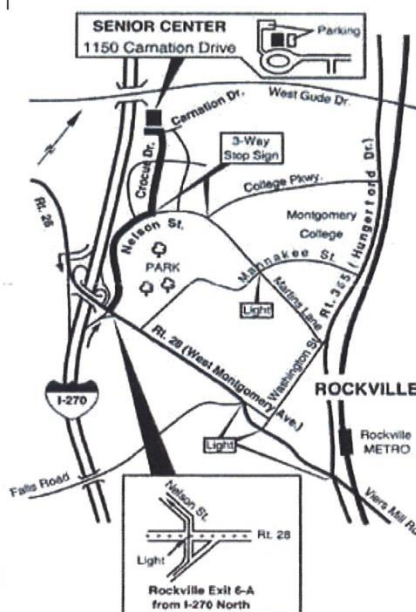
1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville MD 20850

A sampling of the material includes:

- a) Calcites, Barite and Flourites from Tennessee;
- b) Flourite from New Mexico;
- c) Sweetwater and Elmwood, Tennessee Calcites;
- d) Zeolites from India,
- e) Calcites and Flourites from around the world;
- f) Selenite from Mexico and Canada,
- g) Fine quality minerals from Morocco, US, China and Spain,
- h) Pyrite from Peru;
- i) Amethyst Cathedrals;
- j) too many others to list

**For additional information and pictures of some of the material to be auctioned please see the GLMSMC website at [GLMSMC.COM](http://GLMSMC.COM)**

There will also be a display case showing a sampling of the specimens at our annual show on March 17-18 at the Montgomery County Maryland Fairgrounds



**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:**

