

Field trip to Quarryville PA for Amethysts – April 13, 2019 - By: Cheryl Reese



The Delaware Mineralogical Society invited our club and 4 other clubs to participate in a field trip to Quarryville Pa to look for amethyst crystals. The other participating clubs were:

Friends of Mineralogy, Pa Chapter
Friends of Mineralogy, NJ Chapter
Northern Jersey Mineral Club
Tuscarora Lapidary Society

There were 110 people present and donations were collected to give to the landowners family in the amount of \$610

There were 4 people from our club signed up with two new members whom Sondra and I never did find or meet up with. Next time we really need to provide phone numbers.

The day started rainy, foggy and gloomy and ended up with sunny blue skies and warm temps in the 70's. Perfect weather for finding the "shine" of crystals in the recently harrowed dirt. I checked in and we were allowed on the field at 9:00 am. Tom had some samples on his tailgate for us to look at. He had a faceted amethyst that he cut from one crystal he found there. He said

he had heated it to a certain temperature and it was quality grade material. The property is an Amish family's farm and I believe we were on an alfalfa field. It had recently been plowed and there were large quartz rocks littering the surface. We had been told that the center of the field was a good spot and that's where everyone headed for.

Sondra and I chose to do surface collecting further from the center and we both found some quartz and amethyst crystals. Two children near me were doing much better at finding good crystals. (Lower to the ground and better eyesight) The farmer's son had evidently collected before we got there and he had a wagon set out of crystals that we could take for another small donation.

I walked to the center of the field to see how everyone else was making out and the majority of the people had collected in groups and were digging large deep holes. They were also finding some very large singles and clusters that were very nice. They had dug down deep enough to where the brown dirt from the crops met the orange colored dirt or clay layer. It was at this level where the crystals were being found. It was now about 11:30 and we were to leave by 1:00, but I decided I would try and dig a hole myself. I did get down to the correct level but my hole was not very big and I was getting tired from all the stooping. I found small stuff but unfortunately nothing spectacular. If we are invited to attend again, I will start out digging instead.

Everyone had to refill their holes before leaving the field and most people started leaving around 12:30. And even though I didn't get anything really nice, I look forward to going back and using the tips I learned from other members.