

# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## Rock Talk



**May, 2019**

**Next Meeting:  
May 28, 2019@7:00 PM**

**Program**  
Real and Successful Dinosaur  
Hunter  
Bob Simon

**Refreshments**  
Joe and Paula Davis

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

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**APRIL MINUTES**

Submitted by Cheryl Reese

**DATE:** Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Joe

**VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS:**  
no visitors or new members present

**MEMBERSHIP:** We have 55 paid up-to-date club members

**NEWSLETTER:** No report.

**TREASURER:** Dave is sending a check for \$ 60.00 to the AFMLS Scholarship fund in memoriam of John Peschs' wife who passed away.

**FIELD TRIPS:**

Dave reported on the recent field trips that occurred in April. Upcoming trips are:

May 11, 2019 HK Penn Quarry ,  
Peachbottom, PA

June 1, 2019 Vulcan Manassas  
Quarry, 7:15-11:45 am

July TBD, possible trip to Contrary  
Creek for gold and  
garnets

Fall - Carole would like to see the club  
go to Hogg Mine in Georgia.

**PROGRAMS:** Bob Farrar a member of the Md Geographical Society gave a very interesting talk on Fossils from Morocco. Tina and Harry provided refreshments.

May's program will be "Real Life and Successful Dinosaur Hunter" by Bob Simon. Refreshments provided by Joe and Paula

Programs needed for June, July and September.

**WEBSITE:** Website up to date, but Bob would like a report on the last field trip to Vulcan Manassas Quarry that was in April.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Sarah is still designing a logo and card layout for business cards to be handed out to promote the club.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Dave mentioned that Gary and Cindy Lohman have had a recent tragedy in their family and they have been taking care of family members. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Dave wants to make a plaque with a polished stone for the HK Penn Quarry as a thank you for allowing us to collect there. A motion was made and seconded for him to proceed.

**ADJOURNED:** Meeting adjourned at 7:40 followed by door prizes and refreshments.

**ITEMS WANTED/FOR SALE**

For Sale – Virginia unakite slabs (approx ¼ inch thick) – \$0.50 per square inch (this is half off regular price). Call Dave (240) 427-7062.

For Sale – SMRMC Only 4 remaining t-shirts for sale: size small (1) at \$9.00; and large (3), also at \$9.00 each Contact Tina @ htleague@comcast.net

### UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS 2019

**June 1-- MACUNGIE, PA: PA Earth Science • Assoc.; Memorial Park, 70 Poplar St. Sat 8:30-3. Info: MineralFest.com/vendors.htm**

**June 14-15—QUARRYVILLE, PA: Lancaster County Fossil & Mineral Club; Solanco Fairgrounds, Hoffman Building, 172 South Lime St; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-4; \$3; seeking vendors of fossils, minerals, jewelry, and Native American artifacts ; contact Eric Miller; admin@millersmineralmine.com/**

### Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils in the News

## Mineral rock and gem company opens

Franklin. New store capitalizes on Franklin's reputation as the "Mineral Capital of the World".

BY VERA OLINSKI

<http://www.advertisernewssouth.com/article/20190523/NEWS01/190529977/Mineral-rock-and-gem-company-opens>



Famous Franklin minerals fluoresce in the on-site dark room.



From left, owners Bert Lehnherr and Ted Bayles stand near historical displays.



PHOTOS BY VERA OLINSKI From left, Ted Bayles, Bert Lehnherr, and Fred Lubbers stand in front of the new Franklin Mineral Rock and Gem shop.

Rich in history and the desire to improve modern day Franklin, owners Ted Bayles and Bert Lehnherr opened the Franklin Mineral

Rock and Gem, LLC right in the heart of  
Main Street, Franklin.

"Franklin is the mineral capital of the world. Our store is located 100 feet from two of the most famous mines – Palmer Shaft and Parker Shaft – where it all started," Bayles said. "Franklin was a booming town, he continued, since the 1800s to the 1950s; and the mine started in the late 1700s, when they started finding iron ore.

A Franklin native, Bayles lives in the same house as his great-grandparents, grandfather, and dad. He, too, is a general contractor by trade — Ted Bayles General Contracting — like his dad's grandfather, who built many of the old miner's homes by hand, with his two pound maul-hammer head and hatchet handle.

Lehnherr, a U.S. Navy Veteran, said their store is the first rock and mineral shop to open up in the Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the world in over 30 years. "It's time to bring it back," he added, "Everything in here is local."

Local Mineral Expert Fred Lubbers works in the store identifying minerals and appraising collections. Lubbers said the iron miners first came to Franklin. He added, they were not looking for zinc, because they did not know about zinc at that time.

Beautiful rows of wooden cases with lovely glass shelves and tops set off historical displays of minerals found in the Franklin Mines and Sterling Hill Mine.

Bayles said most of the rocks in their store

come from miners; and they are trying to find the history of where the rocks came from originally, who collected them, and why.

Lubbers said miners brought the rock out in their lunch boxes.

Bayles encouraged, "Come in and buy every rare mineral that Franklin has," and there are over 1,000 rocks always for sale in their store, plus mining memorabilia.

Lehnherr said every second Saturday of the month, they have a free barbecue, open to the general public, dealers, and collectors. Within the store, he said, people can buy, sell, trade, interact, and ask questions. "Everything is free," he added, "The barbecue and appraisals are all free."

"It hasn't been that way for years," Lehnherr continued, "and they are bringing back history of how it used to be."

Bayles said they were trying to show people what made Franklin, and why it is here.

Lehnherr said, "This town wouldn't be here if it weren't for the mine."

Bayles said the mine power plant had huge electric generators, which supplied power to the whole town, part of Hamburg, and Ogdensburg. Around 1895, he said, the Franklin Power Plant was the only power plant besides New York, and it was more advanced.

Lehnherr said they just found about ten pages of interaction — letters and invoices — at the

Sterling Hill Mine about Thomas Edison redesigning the vent system at the New Jersey Zinc Company Mine in Franklin, around the turn-of-the-century.

Bayles said his grandfather, a Franklin miner, had said they would discover old tunnels all the time while digging new ones. He explained, no one knew what miners were in Franklin, how many tunnels they dug or where. Mining activities began being recorded, he said, after the zinc company took over a dozen small, unregistered mining companies in the early 1900s, and the town became incorporated.

Franklin was the first town to have municipal water and sewer, Bayles said, because the mines went down so deep, lowering the water table less than 1,000 feet and preventing wells to work. Now the mines are closed up, he continued, so the water table is coming back up.

Lehnherr said they are trying to get people to not throw away the history, to bring it out and let other people know. He added, "If you do not know, then it does not exist."

Franklin could get federal funding to preserve their history, Bayles said, because there is no other place in the world like it.

Bayles set up a display of fluorescing minerals in their on-site dark room of Willemite, fluorescing green; Hardystonite – bluish or purplish – Franklinite – showing black; Esperite – canary yellow – and Calcite – red to orange and even a light yellow.

Lubbers said they have found 365 to 368 minerals in Franklin, and there will be more because the number keeps going up.

"You can see what makes Franklin unique," Bayles said. "We have so much to offer. We have what is in every museum in the world."

## A Gesture of Appreciation

by Dave Lines



At our March 2019 club meeting, I bought up the subject of doing something tangible for the quarries that still allow us to come in and collect specimens --- especially since these quarries are becoming fewer and fewer in number. At the time, I had a rough idea of giving them a simple "plaque" --- a wooden back with a brass plate --- from our club. The club approved the concept and voted to let me come up with something and pay for it from our treasury. As often happens in such situations, I put off doing anything as the idea sort of incubated around my mind. Then a

few days before our recent field trip to the HK Penn-MD quarry in Pennsylvania with the Montgomery County club, I began looking on the internet at plaques to get some ideas of what was available and how much it might cost. Wow --- there were tons of ideas out there and the prices of plaques went as high as three figures. But the problem was that internet sources took a week or two to prepare and ship --- a non-starter for this first attempt because, by this time, I had only two days left before the trip. So I looked up “trophy shops” in the Yellow Pages of the phone book --- yeah, I am not very high tech --- and found a couple of places nearby that made plaques. The first place I called made plaques but sent out all their engraving work to be done elsewhere --- which slowed down the process several days. The next place --- “Crown Trophy” in Waldorf --- made the plaques and did the engraving in their store. I drove there around noon on Thursday before the field trip. At first, I was the only customer in their shop --- until the lunch hour crowd showed up --- and then 10 people were in line. No sweat for these folks as a half dozen people instantly came from the back to help customers at their front counter. They were fast and efficient. The lady that helped me – Katie --- patiently listened to my idea while I showed her what I wanted engraved on the brass plate for the plaque. At first she was thinking it would be a “custom” plaque --- which drove up the price to the \$50 range. Then I explained that I planned to glue on a rock from the particular quarry that we were presenting the plaque to. And I mentioned that if we could get the cost down, we might do this on a regular basis. She then showed me a standard 7” x 9” plaque made of something which looked and

felt exactly like beautiful walnut that could be adapted for what we needed --- and the price was right --- \$12.95 --- which included 40 letters of “free” engraving on a 3” x 5.5” brass plate --- and each additional letter was only 25 cents --- *and they could do it all in one day!!* I splurged and ordered a plaque with 61 letters --- hey, our name “Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club” is 34 letters just by itself. Anyway, the total cost (which included \$1.08 sales tax which Katie said could be waived if we had tax exempt status) was a whopping \$19.03. I picked up the plaque with the engraved plate on Friday afternoon and took it home to “finish”. Out in the shop I went through a couple of boxes of material from the trips we took to that quarry last year and found a piece that needed to be reduced in thickness in order to make it more suitable for the plaque. With a hammer and a small chisel, I split a chunk of williamsite (or perhaps it was translucent serpentine). Then I set up my Genie rock polishing machine and spent about 15 minutes grinding and polishing one side of the rock to a pretty green color which was fairly translucent. I then used some good hobby glue (E6000) from Michael’s craft store to glue it on the plaque. The label stated it would cure in 24 hours and fully cure in 72 hours --- I picked it up just 10 hours later and took to the quarry with me --- and it seemed secure enough to me. *Hopefully*, the rock specimen will stay glued on the plaque forever. The next morning at 8:00 a.m., immediately after the Safety Brief by the Quarry Supervisor, I presented the finished plaque to Mr. James Lang. He seemed both surprised and pleased with our gift. From our point of view, it was a nice way to thank this quarry. It is also a great

goodwill gesture. In the big picture, it is our good relationship with quarry personnel (who voluntarily give up their Saturday mornings to host our club field trips) that really matters. This plaque is a small but valuable investment in the future of our hobby. Hopefully, we can do more of them.

### Trip Report for HK Penn-MD Quarry

Article and Photos by Dave Lines



We met at 7:30 a.m. at the quarry office where we each signed individual waivers. A few minutes before 8 a.m., the Quarry Manager — James Lang — held a safety brief for everyone. This was a joint trip of about 25 people with Montgomery County club as our host. We had 10 from our club — Tim F., Tim S. and his wife Lorna and daughter Francisca, Orion and his son Arion and daughter Aby, Teresa, Rich and Dave. We would be limited to collecting on the 5<sup>th</sup> level — the very bottom of the quarry. James announced that there had been a fresh shot that we could search. The 4<sup>th</sup> level where we collected last year was off limits mainly due to another shot that had been drilled and loaded and was ready to set off.

We then held an impromptu ceremony where we (Southern Maryland club) presented the Quarry Sup with a “Thank You” plaque to express our appreciation to him for allowing us to collect. He

seemed surprised and pleased by our gesture.



It had rained the night before and there were still puddles of water in the quarry when our caravan of vehicles reached the bottom level. I was shocked and amazed at how much material had been mined since our last visit. The previous 4<sup>th</sup> level which had been a least 4 acres in size was almost gone. And correspondingly the 5<sup>th</sup> level was greatly enlarged. Wow! They had mined a LOT of rock!

Almost everyone immediately headed to the new shot to search for specimens. Except for me — I spent the next hour introducing Teresa to skills necessary to *safely* and successfully collect in a commercial quarry. Since this was her very first field trip and her very first experience being inside a quarry, we wanted to get it right. I took her away from the shot area (which was covered with all sizes of loose rocks with sharp edges scattered across about half an acre and on an incline of about 20 degrees). My purpose was get Teresa feeling comfortable with her safety gear — hard hat, steel toed boots, safety glasses, gloves — while carrying a bucket of tools. We conducted this lesson on the flat quarry floor. She did great. And along the way, I began to show her what to look for and how to collect it safely — i.e., keep your gloves on because the rocks are hard and sharp, stay off the berms and well away from the

steep walls because rocks can fall on you. After our beginner learning phase (“No, that rock is a leaverite”), I showed her how to improvise by filling a bucket with a few inches of water from a puddle so we could use the water and a brush to scrub off our finds to quickly determine what we had dug. Then we found some different kinds of rocks — some nice green translucent serpentine, picrolite, magnesite and some brucite (mica-like mineral). Lots to learn. Anyway, she did fine and I left her to continue to collect on her own. She must have had a good time because she sent me a “Thank You” note later.

I then started around the rest of the 5<sup>th</sup> level but did not get very far because I started finding so much good material — including gem quality translucent serpentine. I filled one bucket and took it back to the truck. I returned and moved on until I found an area where water was trickling over the rocks on the floor making it very easy to see the best pieces of translucent green. I probably spent two hours picking up small but nice pieces that would polish. Along the way, people kept using my water — a 5 gallon bucket half full — to clean off their finds. So I was able to see what they were finding. Toward the end of the morning around 11:00 a.m., I finally wandered over toward the fresh shot where many people were still collecting. There, Orion and his daughter Aby showed me some of the material they had been finding up on the rocks of the shot. But their specimens were dirty and mud covered — so I washed them off in my bucket of water. And realized that they had found some REALLY nice mcguinessite. This material is a beautiful turquoise colored mineral with a porcelain type of texture somewhat like common opal or glass. It was spectacular. It turned out that Aby had been the one that found most of it.

Wow!



So I scrubbed off the rest of her mcguinessite specimens and, in return, I asked Aby to actually lead me to the area where she found these brightly colored specimens. She did. Another lady from the Delaware club joined us. Aby and Orion said that that several more people had also searched all over that area as well. But try as I might, I could not find any. Meanwhile Aby spotted several more pieces and generously gave both the other lady and me each a very nice specimen. My piece was the last one that Aby found just before we had to leave the quarry. It was very pretty. She really made my day. Aby came through again! She is becoming quite a good rock hound and I told her so. But she and Orion reminded me of my own advice that “our eyes are our best tools”. How true.

I and the other club leaders all thanked the Quarry Supervisor and everyone left the quarry about 11:45 a.m.. Everyone except one of the attendees who had a dead car battery, but did not have a set of jumper cables. The Quarry Sup came to his rescue and got the car started. All in a day’s work for a great Quarry Sup. Thanks again.

## Member's Finds

This specimen of amethyst in tabular crystal form was collected and (photographed) by Cory Kival during the amethyst dig trip in Pennsylvania



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.

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**Official Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club(\*) Field Trip to Vulcan Quarry Garrisonville, VA on Saturday June 8, 2019 from 7:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

(\*This is a joint trip hosted by the Montgomery County club and may include other local EFMLS clubs.)

**Meeting Time** --- **Meet at the Quarry Office parking lot** at Vulcan Quarry Garrisonville, 100 Vulcan Quarry Rd., Stafford, VA **at 7:30 a.m. (no later!!)** for a Safety Briefing and signing Vulcan waiver forms.

**Trip Leader** --- Dave Lines for SMRMC / Dave Fryauff for Montgomery County Club

**Location** --- Vulcan Quarry Garrisonville, 100 Vulcan Quarry Rd., Stafford, VA (56 miles from La Plata).

**Who May attend:** Adults only this time. Any SMRMC member in good standing.

**Directions** --- (recommend follow directions from MapQuest --- **Note:** as you drive into the paved quarry road, bear right at the "split". Office is the first building on the right.)

**Special note:** Please download, read, sign and bring with you a copy of the attached waiver required by the Montgomery County Club. If you are a NEW MEMBER, these rules are an excellent summary of what to do --- (so you won't do anything unsafe).

**Safety** --- **steel-toed boots, hardhat, safety glasses (shatter-proof), long pants, heavy gloves and bright colored safety vest for all participants.** Stay clear of all high walls and stay off the berms. Take all your tools home --- if you lose a tool, tell me --- steel hammers will ruin rock crushers!!

**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** --- calcite, zeolites (laumontite is relatively stable and very collectible here), heulandite, pyrite (small)

**Equipment/ clothing** --- Full safety gear for everyone at all times --- steel toed shoes/boots, safety glasses, hardhat, work gloves, long pants. Recommended tools --- rock hammer, 3 - 4 pound crack hammer, chisels, stiff scrub brush, 5 gal. bucket, old newspaper for wrapping mineral specimens, pry bar. Optional – heavy sledge hammer, long crow bar, loupe/magnifying glass. Your best tools are sharp eyes. Personal additional clothing depends on the weather.

**Quarry Description / Hints** --- Large operation with two major quarries --- we will go to second one. Rocks are laid out in rows across quarry floor. Search edges of rows. We are not allowed to collect on any berms. Collect only in rows/piles on quarry floor.

**Vehicles** --- We will be allowed to drive our vehicles into the quarry --- so no long hikes – just get out of your vehicle and collect specimens.

**Misc.** --- Drinking water, sunscreen, bug spray, lunch/snacks, "Thank" the quarry representatives. Bring a camera and please take some pictures for our Newsletter/website/trip report (Please email them to Dave.) We must be OUT of the Quarry by 11:45 am.

**Sign-up List** --- Sign-up at May meeting or by email before June 3<sup>rd</sup> to dave.lines@earthlink.net with your name and cell phone number so we can give a head count to the Quarry.

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

**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:**

