

Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



Rock Talk



MAY 2020

A Message to Members by Glenda Jordan, Clearwater Nature Center

Once again wish I had better news to update you with. At this time facilities are expected continue to remain closed to the public until further notice. Summer camps and Summer playgrounds are cancelled. It has also been stated that all classes, programs and events scheduled for June are cancelled. Therefore the June 23 SMRMC meeting and the June 27 Lapidary Club meeting are also cancelled.

Parks/trails continue to stay open, in addition to the previous social distancing guidelines mentioned previously in the last update. MNCPPC is planning on reopening golf courses and outdoor tennis courts at some point in the near future (Mid-May at the earliest).

If you would like to view the most current press release: <http://pgparks.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=565>

So the SMRMC meetings scheduled for May and June 2020 are cancelled. (And not due to "Lack of Interest!!")

The Lapidary workshop is closed until further notice - both because of the shutdown and due to potential delays this will cause for the turtle pond renovation. Once we get a better idea on when renovations will happen you will be updated.

MINUTES

No minutes for April 2020 meeting due to COVID-19 closure of the meeting facilities. Also there will be no minutes for the June 2020 meeting. Unfortunately "No News does not mean "Good News" in this situation.

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| 2020 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| MONTH | PROGRAM | REFRESHMENTS |
| JUNE | MEETING CANCELED | MEETING CANCELED |
| JULY | Pearls, Pearls, Pearls by Denise Wilson | TBD |
| AUGUST | ANNUAL AUCTION | POT LUCK |
| SEPTEMBER | TBD | TBD |
| OCTOBER | Fossil Record of Blood by Dale G. | Tim & Lorna S. |
| NOVEMBER | TBD | TBD |
| DECEMBER | Christmas Party | POT LUCK |

For future planning , the **ROCK TALK** will have the current year's calendar of those planned monthly programs and refreshments. Carol is the current POC for this and will be VERY happy to have people volunteer to fill the TBDs list in the calendar. **PLEASE** help Carol smile by removing the TBDs from this table.

Any changes to the schedule will be documented in the meeting minutes (when there is a meeting) and reported in this table.

Editors Comments -

Just thinking... Right after I took over the duties as the Rock Talk Editor, the club has not had another meeting. Coincidence? Or something more sinister ??

Request for more "Authors" -...In future editions, small (or large) articles from club members can make the Rock Talk a better reading newsletter.

Revisiting Old Sections and making New Sections - From the past - "Words from the President" and a something possibly new could be the "Lapidary Corner" or "Jewelry Creations". Small (or large) discussions to share the different ways we approach or hobby/hobbies interest. As always, I will welcome ANYTHING that is closely related to what our club has an interest.

Calendar of Events

Many of the May and June events have been postponed/cancelled and/or tentatively rescheduled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

July 25-26, 2020 - Monroe, NY - Orange County Mineral Society, Inc. Annual Mineral, Gem, Jewelry and Fossil Show. Rescheduled from June 6-7, 2020. www.ocmsny.org Saturday June 6 and Sunday June 7, 2020 10 am to 4 pm – Rain or Shine Museum Village * 1010 Route 17M * Monroe, NY 10950 Special Admission For Show and Museum Adults - \$5.00 Seniors - \$3.00 Scouts in Uniform & Kids Under 12 Free FREE Gift for kids 12 and under *** THIS IS AN OUTDOOR EVENT *** 65 Vendors, Fun For The Entire Family There will be lots of things to do. Immerse yourself in all things rock, mineral and fossil related Featuring: Artisans, Craftsman, Collectors, Dealers and Exhibitors Glass Blowing demonstrations and a Black Smith On display: "Harry" The Most Complete Mastodon found in Harriman, NY Extensive Local Mineral Collections Exhibits * Demonstrations * Educational Displays **New Fluorescent Mineral Display** Kids Games and Pet Rock Projects 7th ANNUAL FREE WEBELOS EARTH ROCKS: Panning for Gold and sluicing By the Tri-State Gold Prospectors Association of America Food and Refreshments available for purchase * FREE PARKING * The food vendor at the show will be Dogfella's Visit us on **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/OCMSofNY> VENDORS Applications Available **Online:** https://www.orangecountymineralsocietynewyork.com/vendor_application.html

October 31, 2020 - Fairless Hills, PA - The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA and the UV Nomads of the Fluorescent Mineral present "ULTRAVIOLATION 2020" at the First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA., 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Cost \$2.00 Donation, Children 12 years old and younger FREE, Advanced reservations for dealers is advised. Come celebrate the greatest glow show on earth. Alternating light and dark periods, UV Lamps for sale, Fluorescent Mineral Displays, Door Prizes, Snacks and Beverages available. To reserve space or for more information contact Lee McIlvaine; Phone: 215-713-8020, Email: uvgeologist@yahoo.com

Remains of 60 Mammoths Discovered in Mexico

Archaeologists found the trove of bones just six miles from recently discovered human-made ‘mammoth traps’

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/sixty-mammoths-discovered-mexico-180974993/?utm>

By Alex Fox

SMITHSONIANMAG.COM

MAY 29, 2020

Last year, archaeologists discovered huge earthen pits dug by humans some 15,000 years ago in an area just north of Mexico City. Inside those pits were the [remains of more than a dozen mammoths](#), some of which showed signs of being butchered. This discovery led researchers to hypothesize that these pits were in fact traps laid by human ancestors to capture huge, prehistoric prey, reported the [Associated Press](#) in 2019.



Now, another [mammoth](#) graveyard has been found just six miles away, though archaeologists so far see no signs of human involvement in the demise of the roughly 60

mammoths that have been unearthed, reports Mark Stevenson for the [Associated Press](#).

The glut of mammoth bones are spread across three sites, reports Christine Hauser for the [New York Times](#). One of the sites is situated at what was once the muddy shoreline of an ancient lake called Xaltocan that has long since dried up.

Archaeologist Pedro Francisco Sánchez Nava of the INAH says in the statement that the mammoth skeletons found on the former shoreline of Xaltocan were better preserved than those excavated from what would have been the lake’s deeper waters. The shoreline contingent, which included adult males as well as females and their offspring, may have gotten stuck in the mud of the shallows after being lured in by its lush reeds and grasses, Sánchez Nava tells the AP. Mammoths could mow down roughly 330 pounds of greenery every day, and Xaltocan would have been “like paradise for them,” Sánchez Nava tells the AP.



So far, researchers have found no signs of the animals having been butchered by humans, but, per the statement, Sánchez Nava says the possibility that humans took advantage of the heavy animals once they got stuck in the mud has not been ruled out.

Going a step further, Sánchez Nava tells the AP that ancient human hunters might have used the lake muck to their advantage. “It’s possible they may have chased them into the mud,” he tells the AP, adding that “they (ancient humans) had a very structured and organized division of labor” for obtaining mammoth meat.

The discovery has the potential to reshape how frequently our ancestors dined on the now-extinct pachyderms. “They used to think it was very chance, sporadic,” Sánchez Nava tells the AP. “In fact, it may have been part of their daily diet.”

The vast majority of mammoths went extinct around 10,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age, but a population in the hundreds managed to eke out an existence on [Wrangel Island off the coast of Russia until around 4,000 years ago](#).

The dig in Mexico began in October, and all signs seem to point to the final tally of mammoth remains continuing to grow.

“There are too many, there are hundreds,” Sánchez Nava tells the AP.

With the current count at 60, the excavation has so far produced around 10 mammoths a month, which Sánchez Nava tells the AP may continue. The dig is scheduled to end in 2022, when the airport’s construction is expected to finish.

WILDACRES AUGUST SESSION

Registration Still Open From Wildacres Workshop Committee: At this time, the August session is still scheduled to be held and we will keep you informed of any changes. After practicing staying home with the coronavirus, imagine a week of no cooking and no housekeeping. But most of all, imagine a week of meeting with fellow hobbyists and learning something new or honing skills you already have. How about being in the outdoors breathing all that fresh mountain air? There is still time to sign up for the August 24-30 session of Wildacres. A final list of the classes can be found at www.EFMLS.org/wildacres. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Weinberger (Chair), Pam Bryant (Director) or Suzie Milligan (Registrar).

Member's Finds

Dave's Secret Place

By David Lines

After the heavy rain the other day (May 2nd), I decided to look for fossils in a nearby secret stream (located in Charles County). If there is sufficient rapid runoff, the stream level rises and moves/turns over enough gravel in the stream to bring some fossils/artifacts to the surface. Never know what I might find. In past, I have found sharks teeth, fossil vertebra and bones (whale and porpoise), interesting rocks, various native American artifacts, colonial pottery and even petrified wood.

This time I found several small pieces of fossil whale/porpoise bone (now rock), a piece of crockery (1800's), a few pieces of Patuxent River stone, and some cool native American artifacts --- a hand "chopper" (bottom left) and two well-made "blades" (one on top right is definitely a knife and the other wider one on top left is maybe a knife or maybe a hafted spear point with a broken tip that was re-purposed to a scraper). Age of artifacts? ---1,000 to 5,000 years.



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) and Large (3) for \$9.00 each. Contact Tina at htleague@comcast.net



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

SMRMC OFFICERS
PRESIDENT
Sondra Fielder
Sondra611@verizon.net

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Program Vice President Carole Raucheson caroleal@verizon.net | Membership Vice President Joe Davis J1964d@netzero.net |
| Secretary Cheryl Reese cheryl_59@comcast.net | Webmaster Bob Davidson Bob.Davidson2@yahoo.com |
| Field Trip Chairman David Lines Dave.lines@earthlink.net | Treasurer David Lines Dave.lines@earthlink.net |

Editor
Richard Simcsak
sadsack56@msn.com