Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

ROCK TALK AUGUST 2020

NATURE CENTER REMAINS CLOSED TO GROUP MEETINGS

The Nature Center staff is going through multiple training lessons to promote a "Virus Free" atmosphere during any activity that PG County Parks and Recreations is sponsoring. The ultimate opening of the Clearwater Nature Center will be a slow, ongoing effort ensuring best practices ensuring the lowest chances of spreading COVID-19 between the animals and humans.

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

So the SMRMC meeting scheduled for AUGUST 2020 is cancelled. (And not due to "Lack of Interest!!")

The Lapidary workshop is also 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/May/June/July 2020 meetings due to COVID-19 closure of the meeting facilities. Also there will be no minutes for the August 2020 meeting. Unfortunately "No News does not mean "Good News" in this situation.

Stay Healthy.

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

In this Issue:	
TOPIC	**PAGE**

2020 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	**PROGRAM**	**REFRESHMENTS**
JUNE	**MEETING CANCELED**	MEETING CANCELED
JULY	**MEETING CANCELED**	MEETING CANCELED
AUGUST	**MEETING CANCELED**	MEETING CANCELED
SEPTEMBER	**TBD**	See Below
OCTOBER	Fossil Record of Blood by Dale G.	See Below
NOVEMBER	**TBD**	See Below
DECEMBER	Christmas Party	See Below

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the Nature Center is **not** allowing personal food into the facility for group meetings. This and many other COVID-19 related limitations/rules/etc are being routinely reviewed in an attempt for a return to normality. The Nature Center will keep us informed on any changes to the ongoing COVID policies that PG County has instituted.

For future planning , the **ROCK TALK** will have the current year's calendar of those planned monthly programs and refreshments.

If anyone has noticed, there are many TBDs listed. These are not meant as "Surprise" events. We are in need of speakers/topics to enrich fellow members knowledge and interest. **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.

Five Places Where You Can Collect Fossils Around D.C.

The National Museum of Natural History may still be closed, but you don't have to venture far to make awesome finds yourself

By **Rachael Lallensack**
SMITHSONIANMAG.COM
AUGUST 20, 2020

About 20 million years ago, the land that's now Virginia, Maryland and the nation's capital Washington, D.C. was underwater. Where monuments now stand, giant megalodon shark hunted down prehistoric whales and dolphins and fish darted through coral. The marks these creatures left on the world haven't washed away, as folks stumble on fossil evidence of their ancient lives all the time.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History boasts fossils from all around the world, and yet plenty come from the area surrounding the museum itself. There's a Miocene era baleen whale skull on display that was found in the Calvert Cliffs in Maryland, for example. A giant Megalodon replica hangs from the atrium in the cafe; a nearby plaque explains that you can still find "Meg" teeth on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

For amateur fossil hunters dreaming of coming across a megalodon tooth on the beach, we've curated a list of fossil hot spots just a hop, skip and jump from the Natural History Museum.

Calvert Cliffs - Lusby, Maryland

Perhaps the most well-known fossil site on the east coast, the Calvert Cliffs cover about 24 miles of shoreline in Maryland. More than 600 species of fossils, including prehistoric oyster shells, mollusks and scallops as well as shark teeth, have been found on the shores. You might even find a megalodon tooth—most likely, however, you'll find smaller teeth of other kinds of ancient sharks. Most finds date back to the Miocene era, or around 15 million years ago.

You might be wondering why it is so easy to find shark teeth millions of years old on the beach. According to Smithsonian marine paleobiologist David Bohaska, sharks lose their teeth and regrow new ones constantly. In its lifetime, he explains, a single shark can have thousands and thousands of teeth.

One location where you can access the cliffs is at Calvert Cliffs State Park in Lusby, Maryland. Just a 1.8-mile walk from the parking lot, you can scour the open beach area with a small shovel and sieve—these you'll need to bring yourself—for remnants of prehistoric sea life. (Don't bring a hammer or bang on rocks as this will only damage the fossil, Bohaska advises.) The cliffs are layered at a slant, so you'll find fossils from different geologic time periods depending on where you are.

"The layers at the top are the more recent chapters and the stuff at the bottom is older," Bohaska explains. He warns that it is illegal to climb on the cliffs or search beneath them in this area, so pay attention to signage.

"You're out in the wild, be aware," says Bohaska. "If you look at the cliff and it has a crack, or if there's a tree overhanging, that's not a place you want to stand."

You can find lots of in-depth information about where to look for fossils and how to determine what you found on the Maryland Geological Survey website. You can also download Smithsonian Scholarly Press' *The Geology and Vertebrate Paleontology of Calvert Cliffs, Maryland, USA* online.

Be sure to plan ahead for filled-to-capacity closures on busy holiday weekends like Labor Day. And pack your mask: The Maryland Park Service requires face coverings in public buildings and outdoor public spaces wherever social distancing is not possible.

Stratford Hall - Stratford, Virginia

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcRo3_dGUqk
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hV7w1AUbAlw
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0Yi3FFHZak

In 1717, Virginia colonist and politician Thomas Lee purchased Stratford Hall, a 1,200-acre property in Stratford, Virginia. About 17 million years earlier, during the Miocene era, however, the Stratford Hall estate's towering 150-foot-high cliffs were actually part of the seafloor, according to its website. (https://www.stratfordhall.org/the-cliff-beaches/)

In 2013, amateur paleontologist Jon Bachman—who serves as Stratford Hall's educational events coordinator—found a 15-million-year-old whale skull on the shores of the Potomac River at the four-generation Lee family home, where Robert E. Lee was born in 1807. The six-foot-long, 1,000-pound fossil was unearthed when the banks of the river eroded that summer. The skull was "the biggest" found near the cliffs, but there's plenty more where that came from, including "shark-toothed porpoises, salt-water crocodiles, sea cows, gopher turtles [and] rays," according to Stratford Hall's website.

The cliffs still turn loose small fossils as they erode. As sediment accumulated for millions of years, the ocean underwent a series of marine transgressions, meaning that over a long period of time, the shoreline receded and advanced several times. Each time that movement happened a new layer of sediment was dumped, and those layers can be seen as one looks up at the cliffs.

"The back and forth of the ocean created the right environment to preserve the remains of countless animals," Bachman explains. "Now, as the river current scours the cliffs, these fossils are exposed and slowly emerge out of the cliffs. That's what people want to find."

Today, the waterline at the Stratford cliffs is about 16 million years old, Bachman says.

Due to irresponsible fossil hunting practices, however, visitors must purchase a grounds pass ($8 for adults and $5 for kids) to access a small, well-marked, 100-yard-long collecting area on the beach. The Hall still offers guided collecting tours led by one of their Paleo Patrol volunteers, explains Alex Withers, an events coordinator at Stratford Hall. Tours are typically about four hours long. Withers notes there is limited weekend tour availability left in the 2020 season, but they are taking reservations for 2021. (You can read up about their COVID-19 guidelines on their website (https://www.stratfordhall.org/welcomeback/.)

Bachman, who used to be a fourth grade teacher in Virginia's Prince William County, says making fossil collecting a lifelong hobby is a worthwhile adventure. "It takes patience, this stuff isn't littering the ground," he says. "It's humbling and fascinating hobby."

Start with reviewing the principles of geology, Bachman suggests. Then move on to studying the geology in your area, which will tell you what rock formation and landscape features are nearby—and therefore, what fossils might be found there. State geologic societies have useful information on their websites.

"It's just a delight and you don't have to get a degree in it to enjoy it," he adds. "You can educate yourself in stages. It's about familiarizing yourself with the landscape around us."

Westmoreland State Park Fossil Beach - Montross, Virginia

About 70 miles south of the Natural History Museum, Westmoreland State Park's Fossil Beach (https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/westmoreland) is another hotbed for

prehistoric shark teeth, but what's really eye-catching about the location is the stratigraphy—or rocky layers—of the cliffs. Gazing up at the cliffs' stripes is like looking 25 million years back in time; each layer represents millions of years of geologic history. Fossil Beach neighbors Stratford Hall, so the geology in both areas is similar.

"The river current erodes the sediment and fossilized material washes up on the beach," explains Bachman, who lives nearby and collects fossils at this location. Bachman's wife, Dianne, recently found the lower part of a leg bone, which they later found out may belong to a Miocene pseudo-toothed pelican, *Pelagornis miocaenus*, after having their colleague Robert Weems, a paleontologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, take a look. The bone is about six inches long and hollow, much like bird bones are today.

"People probably stepped over it a million times," says Bachman.

The area was once home to the unique prehistoric whale species, *Eobalaenoptera harrisoni*. A model of the 14 million-year-old baleen whale hangs in the Caroline County visitor's center (https://co.caroline.va.us/328/Whale-Display) just a short drive from Fossil Beach. When the original fossil was excavated in the 1990s, researchers recovered half of the full skeleton, making it one of the most complete and largest prehistoric whale skeletons in the U.S. The skeleton is housed in the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville.

During the pandemic, "face coverings are required in all park facilities and where social distancing is not possible," according to the park's website. Virginia State Parks also recommends bringing your own soap and hand sanitizer. Of course, respect social distancing and keep a six-foot space between yourself and others. Step aside to let others pass on trails.

Purse State Park - Nanjemoy, Maryland

Just over an hour's drive south of D.C., Purse State Park is located on a stretch of the banks of the Potomac River called Wades Bay. Paleontologist Michelle Pinsdorf of Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History says most of the fossils you'll find at this site are from the late Paleocene—specifically the Aquia Formation rock layer, which is 55 to 59 million years old.

"During this time period, many types of animals were evolving and diversifying to adapt to the extinction event at the end of the Cretaceous time period," Pinsdorf writes in an email to *Smithsonian* magazine. "Because the deposit is marine in origin, the teeth of a wide variety of shark and bony fish species can be found in this formation."

Alongside shark teeth, you may find an occasional prehistoric crocodile tooth, which by comparison sort of look like "an ice cream

cone with an almost silky texture," says Bohaska.

You'll also spot plenty of fossilized shells. Pinsdorf says prehistoric oyster shells are among her favorite finds at Purse State Park. "Although they are heavily eroded and don't have much of the shell pattern or shape left, they are a beautiful purple color and have an interesting luster and smooth texture," she says.

The ideal time to search is during low tide when there is enough shoreline to scour. "But if you go in the days after a storm or rough waters, you're more likely to find fossils that have recently eroded out of the bedrock, and are in better condition as a result," explains Pinsdorf.

The trails are unmarked so it's important to carry a compass and map, according to Maryland's tourism department. Pinsdorf suggests taking a quarter-mile trail westward, across the road from the Park's parking area on Route 224 (Riverside Road), to a narrow stretch of beach along Wade's Bay.

"Bringing a colander or mesh screen is recommended to aid in sifting the gravel, in which small but numerous shark teeth and can be found," she says. "Larger, weathered oyster shell fragments are present at this site also."

During the coronavirus pandemic, face coverings are required in park buildings and outdoor areas where social distancing is not possible. Some parks have introduced additional cleaning procedures for restrooms or closed public restrooms. Others may be offering portable bathrooms instead, according to Maryland's Department of Natural Resources.

Dinosaur Park - Laurel, Maryland

Originally a prime site for iron mining, African American miners in 1858 were the first to discover dinosaur fossils at this site. Geologist Philip Thomas Tyson brought the fossilized bones from the mines to a scientific conference in 1859, where they were officially identified as dinosaur remains.

"It's a place where people have been working for a few hundred years," explains paleontologist Matt Carrano of Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. If the area where Dinosaur Park now stands hadn't been mined at all, it would look like a normal Maryland hillside covered in vegetation. "It's only a good spot for fossil collecting because it was mined for so long," he says." You're

looking at bedrock where there should be soil."

Today, Dinosaur Park (http://www.pgparks.com/3402/About-Dinosaur-Park) features fossilized dino bones, including some from Maryland's state dinosaur *Astrodon johnstoni*, and floral remnants from the early Cretaceous period about 115 million years ago. At the time, the region would have resembled something like a swampy bayou with muddy streams. According to Carrano, the sediment was a very fine, almost "pottery-quality," clay-like material.

"You're walking on a clay layer that was deposited 110 million years ago," Carrano says. Now, when it rains, the clay absorbs the water and then dries out again, revealing fossil fragments in that process. The most common finds are plant material, like wood and pine cones.

"Every now and then the conditions are just right and you get a situation when the environment is saving things instead of recycling them," Carrano explains.

Due to COVID-19, all public programs and fossil collecting at Dinosaur Park are currently on hold, but the park area is open from sunrise to sunset. The unrestricted area features a Cretaceous-era garden and a climbable dinosaur "skeleton." Signs describe the kinds of dinosaurs that once roamed the area, what Maryland's prehistoric environment looked like and the African American history in the area, according to the park's website. (http://www.pgparks.com/3402/About-Dinosaur-Park)

Dinosaur Park usually serves as an outdoor laboratory, where the public can work alongside paleontologists to help uncover the past on the first and third Saturdays of the month or by appointment. Hundreds of fossils discovered by visitors have been collected and cataloged to date, enhancing our knowledge about the ancient ecosystem that once existed here.

"There's a steady stream of new discoveries," Carrano says. "We're in this phase when the variety is much greater than we knew, just because we didn't have much collected from the area. Many times, you'll know you have something new, but you don't have enough of it to give it a new name."

Rachael Lallensack is the assistant web editor for science and innovation at *Smithsonian*.

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/five-places-where-you-can-collect-fossils-around-dc-180975596/

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Desert Moss Beats Heat by Growing Under Quartz Crystals

Researchers find the translucent rocks keep the moss moist while letting just enough light pass through its milky interior

By **Alex Fox**
SMITHSONIANMAG.COM
AUGUST 21, 2020 12:32PM

Despite what wellness gurus may say, no scientific research supports the idea that crystals boost human health—apart from the placebo effect, which can be powerful. But new research reveals that a type of desert moss gets genuine benefits from living under quartz crystals, reports Sabrina Imbler for the *New York Times*.

To survive in the hot, arid Mojave Desert, the moss *Syntrichia caninervis* needs to avoid drying out but also needs to catch a few rays to photosynthesize and keep growing. The moss manages to strike this perfect, yoga-like balance by growing beneath translucent quartz blocks.

The quartz's cloudy interior filters out much of the sun's desiccating radiation, which keeps things wetter than the surrounding environment, but just enough light sneaks through to keep the moss's green engine running, the researchers reported last month in the journal *PLOS ONE*. The quartz also keeps the moss warmer when the temperature drops in the winter, reports Paul Simons for the *Guardian*.

The researchers encountered the moss' new agey life strategy somewhat by accident.

"We were there (in the Mojave) studying the population biology and reproductive biology of mosses, and picking up these cool quartz rocks, like, oh look at this pretty rock," Jenna Ekwealor, a graduate student studying plant biology at the University of California Berkeley and first author of the new research, says in a statement.

Speaking with the *Times*, Kirsten Fisher, a biologist at California State University, Los Angeles and co-author of the paper, describes her reaction when she discovered a verdant tuft of moss beneath the quartz: "I said, 'Holy moly, there's moss under this rock.'"

In the coming weeks, the pair turned over more pieces of quartz, and consistently found more moss.

"In the desert, for all organisms, it is like life or death all the time," Ekwealor says in the statement. "So anytime you can find a little boost, a little benefit, it makes a really big difference."

When the researchers set up a formal study of the phenomenon, they found the moss could be picky about the dimensions and properties of its stone shelter, according to the *Guardian*. Most of the moss-harboring quartz pieces were roughly an inch thick and were sufficiently clear to allow some 4

percent of sunlight to reach the plant below. Outside these parameters, the quartz would either offer too much or not enough protection from the elements.
Using sensors wedged under some of these hunks of quartz, the researchers found the stones kept things twice as humid as the surrounding environment and buffered swings in temperature by 7 degrees Fahrenheit in either direction, according to the *Times*.

This moss isn't the only life form known to take advantage of the unique perks found underneath semi-transparent rocks. Hardy cyanobacteria, studied by astrobiologists looking for organisms that might survive elsewhere in the solar system, also live under translucent minerals, per the *Guardian*. The *Syntrichia caninervis* moss is the first plant known to adopt the strategy.

"I hope people start flipping rocks to see what else is out there," Ekwealor tells the *Times*. "And gently placing them back down again, so the moss can survive."

Alex Fox is a freelance science journalist based in Washington, D.C. He has written for *Science*, *Nature*, *Science News*, *the San Jose Mercury News*, and *Mongabay*. You can find him at Alexfoxscience.com.

'Remarkable' 442-carat diamond found in Africa, could be worth $18M

Gem Diamonds discovered the diamond at its Letseng mine in Lesotho

https://www.foxnews.com/science/442-carat-diamond-found-africa-worth-18m
By **Chris Ciaccia | Fox News**

One of the world's largest diamonds has been unearthed in Africa -- a 442-carat rock worth as much as $18 million, according to one expert.

Gem Diamonds Ltd. discovered the gem at its Letseng mine in Lesotho, the company announced Friday.

"The recovery of this remarkable 442 carat diamond, one of the world's largest gem-quality diamonds to be recovered this year, is further confirmation of the caliber of the Letseng mine and its ability to consistently produce large, high-quality diamonds," Gem Diamonds CEO Clifford Elphick said in a statement.

According to Bloomberg, which first reported the news, the precious stone could be worth as much as $18 million, citing a research note from BMO Capital Markets analyst Edward Sterck.

"A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this diamond will be used to fund a special community project, as agreed with our partner, the government of Lesotho," Elphick said.
Lesotho is a landlocked country in southern Africa, encircled by South Africa. It has a population of just over 2 million and has been an independent country since 1966, after it gained freedom from Britain.
Although the diamond industry has suffered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for larger stones is more stable, given the rarity of these precious stones, Bloomberg reported.
In 2018, Gem Diamonds found a 910-carat diamond known as the "Lesotho Legend" at the Letseng mine that eventually sold for $40 million.

Also in 2018, miners in Canada found a rough 552-carat yellow diamond, the largest diamond ever discovered in North America.

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240M-year-old 'megapredator' had 12-foot reptile in its stomach

Researchers say discovery proves 'gigantic predators' fed on large prey

https://www.foxnews.com/science/massive-12-foot-reptile-inside-stomach-240myear-old-megapredator

By **Chris Ciaccia | Fox News**

Researchers examining a nearly complete skeleton of a 240-million-year-old "megapredator" have found another large reptile in its stomach.

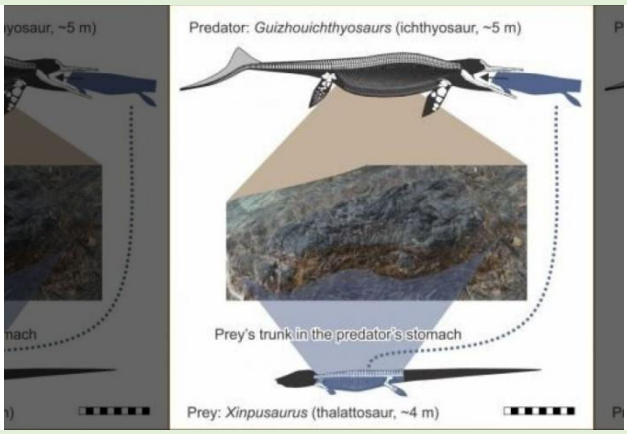
The ichthyosaur likely died soon after it devoured its prey.

“We have never found articulated remains of a large reptile in the stomach of gigantic predators from the age of dinosaurs, such as marine reptiles and dinosaurs,” University of California Davis professor and study co-author Ryosuke Motani said in a statement. “We always guessed from tooth shape and jaw design that these predators must have fed on large prey, but now we have direct evidence that they did.”

The fossilized remains of the ichthyosaur were found in southwestern China in 2010.

Ichthyosaur means "fish lizard," an apt way to describe the giant sea-dwelling creature. The earliest known ichthyosaurs had long, flexible bodies and likely swam similar to modern-day eels, according to an article from the University of California Berkeley.

Given the size of the prey, it's possible the ichthyosaur could be reclassified as an "apex predator," putting it at the top of the food chain during the early part of the Mesozoic Era.



"Air-breathing marine predators have been essential components of the marine ecosystem since the Triassic," the researchers wrote in the study's summary. "Many of them are considered the apex predators but without direct evidence—dietary inferences are usually based on circumstantial evidence, such as tooth shape. Here we report a fossil that likely represents the oldest evidence for predation on megafauna, i.e., animals equal to or larger than humans, by marine tetrapods—a thalattosaur (~4 m in total length) in the stomach of a Middle Triassic ichthyosaur (~5 m)."

The researchers continued: "The predator has grasping teeth yet swallowed the body trunk of the prey in one to several pieces. There were many more Mesozoic marine reptiles with similar grasping teeth, so megafaunal predation was likely more widespread than presently conceived."
Some ichthyosaur fossils discovered have shown the creatures to give birth to live, developed young. Unlike dinosaurs, which ichthyosaurs have been confused with, they did not lay eggs.

It's still unclear which group of modern-day vertebrates are the closest relative to ichthyosaurs, but researchers have suggested they may have been an offshoot of diapsids, which includes dinosaurs, birds and pterosaurs. Others have suggested that it may actually be a distant relative of sea turtles.

Researchers continue to learn more about ichthyosaurs thanks to recent fossil discoveries.

A number of ichthyosaurs fossils have been discovered recently. In April 2018, the massive jawbone of a 205-million-year-old ichthyosaur was discovered in southwestern England, making it "one of the largest animals to ever live." The fossils of a 180-million-year-old ichthyosaur, which also contained evidence of blubber and skin, were discovered in December 2018.

In January 2019, researchers used 3-D technology to unlock the secrets of a nearly 200-million-year-old ichthyosaur skull, which was discovered in a U.K. farmer's field in 1955.

In December, a British man walking his two dogs on a beach in England stumbled upon what is believed to be the fossilized remains of a 65-million-year-old ichthyosaur.

Fox News' James Rogers contributed to this article.

Member's Finds

Tina and Harry League were enjoying a stroll through their new property and surprisingly found these .

Editors Comments -

Things have been quite on the Rock and Mineral Front. I know people are doing their best to stay healthy and follow CDC and the Governor's guidelines during this pandemic. BUT, if there is a story that needs to be shared with the rest of the club members - PLEASE forward it. We have seen a good amount of news that is not uplifting to anyone. But if anyone has made an interesting find, polished/carved an interesting stone/gem - sharing those pictures can brighten many people's minds and inspire others to do more.

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"

New Ideas -

"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 events have been postponed/cancelled and/or rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

From: Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce [mailto:director@mtidachamber.com]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:01 PM
Subject: 33rd World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig

Thank you for your past interest in the World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig in Mount Ida, Arkansas.

We've been working diligently to ensure that this event is conducted within the safety guidelines in place regarding COVID-19, and we thank you for your patience.

Good news, this event is scheduled for the weekend of September 25th and 26th, and we have attached this year's digger entry form! Registrations will be limited to the first 100 Digger Applications submitted and paid.

Please read the Digger Application form for more information, and let us know if you have any questions or need anything additional.

Thank you,

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www.mtidachamber.com
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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:

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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