



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

SEPTEMBER 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 Recreation is sponsoring. The ultimate opening of the Clearwater Nature Center will be a coordinated, ongoing effort ensuring best practices ensuring the lowest chances of spreading COVID-19 between the animals and humans.

Currently PG County Parks desire all locations to open concurrently, not separately. So once ALL facilities belonging to the PG County Parks Community all ready for a safe opening, then we will have our first meeting.

If you would like to view the most current press

release: <http://pgparks.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=565>

So the SMRMC meeting scheduled for September 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/August 2020 meetings due to COVID-19 closure of the meeting facilities. Also there will be no minutes for the September 2020 meeting. Unfortunately "No News does not mean "Good News" in this situation.

Stay Healthy.



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2020 / 2021 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
AUGUST	MEETING CANCELED	MEETING CANCELED
SEPTEMBER	MEETING CANCELED	MEETING CANCELED
OCTOBER	<u>Fossil Record of Blood</u> by Dale G.	See Below
NOVEMBER	TBD	See Below
DECEMBER	<u>Christmas Party</u>	Pot Luck
JANUARY	<u>TBD</u>	See Below
FEBRUARY	<u>TBD</u>	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.

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 our 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 -

Things have been quiet 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.

Morefield Gem and Mineral Mine

Amelia, VA

May 2015





February 2015 - SMRMC Rock Show , Upper Marlboro, MD

Birthstones

Key to Birthstones (Original)		Alternative
January	Garnet	Tanzanite, Rose Quartz
February	Amethyst	Tourmaline, Onyx
March	Aquamarine	Bloodstone
April	Diamond	Nephrite, Quartz
May	Emerald	Agate, Chrysoprase
June	Pearl	Alexandrite, Moonstone
July	Ruby	Onyx, Carnelian
August	Peridot	Sardonyx
September	Sapphire	Malachite, Lapis
October	Opal	Tourmaline
November	Topaz	Rubellite, Citrine
December	Turquoise	Tanzanite, Zircon, Coral

Books that can add to one's knowledge (or defeat COVID Boredom)..

Mineral Reference Books: These are better for a beginner and relatively less expensive than more comprehensive books not listed here.

Audubon Society Field Guide to N. American Rocks and Minerals, Charles Chesterman
 Bantam Science Books, Rocks and Minerals, by Joel Arem, Ridge Press Books
 Dana's Minerals and How To Study Them, by Edward S. Dana and Cornelius Hurlbut Jr.
 Eye Witness Handbook of Rocks & Mineral, Pellant
 Golden Nature Guide, Rocks and Minerals, by Herbert S. Zim, Golden Press
 Minerals of the World, A Guide to Field Identification, Sorrell & Sandstrom
 Mineral, Rocks, and Precious Stones, Dr. Jaroslav Bauer
 Peterson's Field Guide, Rocks and Minerals, by Dr. F. H. Pough
 Simon and Shuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals, Mottana et al

Gemstone Reference Books:

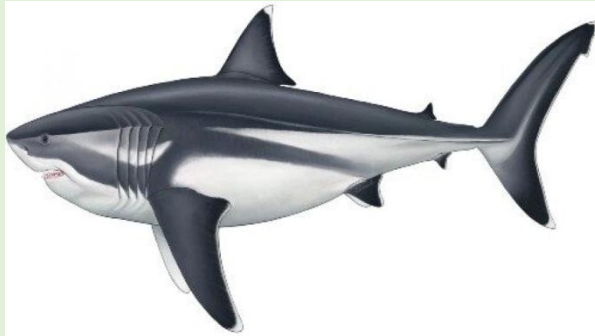
Eyewitness Handbook, Gemstones, Cathy Hall
 Gems and Jewelry, Joel Arem
 Simon and Shuster's Guide to Gems and Precious Stones, Curzio Cipriani, Allesandri Borelli

Megalodon discovery: Scientists reveal giant shark's astonishing true scale

The giant megalodon is history's largest marine predator

By [James Rogers](#) | [Fox News](#)

Researchers in the U.K. have revealed the true size of the megalodon, the prehistoric giant shark of Hollywood fame.



Experts from the University of Bristol and Swansea University have shed new light on the giant megalodon, which is history's largest marine predator. While the modern great white shark can be over 20 feet long, the megalodon, which lived from 23 million to 3 million years ago, was over twice the length of a great white. Scientists can now reveal the size of the rest of the megalodon's body, including its huge fins.

The researchers [note](#) that megalodon fossils are typically huge triangular teeth larger than a human hand. Armed with data from these fossils, scientists used mathematical methods to ascertain the size and proportions of the megalodons. Comparisons were also made with the creature's living relatives.

"Megalodon is not a direct ancestor of the great white but is equally related to other macropredatory sharks such as the Makos, Salmon shark and Porbeagle shark, as well as the great white," said Dr. Catalina Pimiento of Swansea University, who supervised the study, in a [statement](#). The makos refers to the two subspecies of mako shark – shortfin and longfin.

Detailed measurements of the modern sharks were pooled to make predictions about the megalodon, Pimiento said.

"Before we could do anything, we had to test whether these five modern sharks changed proportions as they grew up," added Professor Mike Benton, a paleontologist at the University of Bristol, in the statement. "If, for example, they had been like humans, where babies have big heads and short legs, we would have had some difficulties in projecting the adult proportions for such a huge extinct shark."

"But we were surprised, and relieved, to discover that in fact that the babies of all these modern predatory sharks start out as little adults, and they don't change in proportion as they get larger," he said.

Researcher Jack Cooper, who recently completed his M.Sc. in Palaeobiology at the University of Bristol, explained that the team was then able to work out the proportions of the megalodon.

"This means we could simply take the growth curves of the five modern forms and project the overall shape as they get larger and larger – right up to a body length of 16 metres [52.5 feet]," he said.

A 52.5-foot-long megalodon likely had a head 15.3 feet long, a dorsal fin approximately 5.3 feet tall and a tail around 12.6 feet high, the scientists found. "This means an adult human could stand on the back of this shark and would be about the same height as the dorsal fin," they said, in the statement.



The research is published in the journal [Scientific Reports](#).

Earlier this year a megalodon tooth as large as a human hand was [found](#) in South Carolina. Last year megalodon teeth, as well as teeth from several other species of shark, were [discovered](#) in Mexico.

Fox News' Chris Ciaccia and Christopher Carbone contributed to this article.

Follow James Rogers on Twitter [@jamesirogers](#)

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/megalodon-discovery-scientists-reveal-giant-sharks-true-scale>

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.

Mineral Tip from Eureka News, Osage Hills Gems, The Gemrock, Spring 2020

For cleaning quartz, many collectors use hydrochloric acid (muriatic) to clean the brown stains from quartz crystals. This cleans the crystals but leaves a residue of ferric acid that requires washing to remove. Tartaric acid will clean as well and much easier. Put a spoonful of tartaric acid in water and immerse the specimen.

Are there other "Helpful Hints" that can be shared ? If so, please forward them to the Editor. A collection of these "helps" could be made into a "Special Section" for members to save as a guide for their workings with their collections!

Calendar of Events

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

Please check with the sponsoring club to make sure the event has not been cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic before attending any event.

September 26-27, 2020 - Franklin, NJ - Annual Franklin Mineral Show Sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society {FOMS}. Firemen's Memorial Park, 144 Buckwheat Road, Franklin, NJ 07416. Held in the Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World. Indoor Show & Outdoor Swap Sat. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Admission: Adult \$7.00 Children (6-16) \$4.00 Fluorescent Minerals on display and for sale from the World Famous Fluorescent Mineral Mines in Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey For More Information: <http://fomsnj.org/Events.aspx> Outdoor Vendors Space available, for information e-mail: gsmoldovany@gmail.com

September 30 - October 4, 2020 - Edison, NJ - NJ Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show, NJ Expo Convention Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Largest Gen & Mineral Show on the East Coast 450 Booths of fine minerals, gems, fossils and so much more. This huge family-friendly show and sale features common | intermediate | investment grade mineral specimens, fossils, dinosaurs, meteorites, gemstones, artisan jewelry, amber, turquoise, emeralds, beads, findings, gold, silver, crystals, cabochons, science gifts, metaphysical, interior decor, petrified wood, craftsman jewelry boxes, tools, supplies, and so much more. Sellers come from all over the

world to meet buyers who come from the tri-state area and beyond. For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1359433700875707/> or <https://ny-nj-gemshow.com/>

October 3, 2020 - Macungie, PA - 2020 Autumn Mineralfest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Science Association.

Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

One hundred tables overloaded with minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, crystals and geodes from six continents - and possibly from outer space. Breakfast and lunch available in the building, Plenty of free parking, Held rain or shine A family-oriented event - younger attendees encouraged. Adult admission only \$2.00, Free admission and mineral specimens for children under twelve, Multiple door prizes awarded hourly, Gold panning and sluicing demonstrations are favorites with kids. For more information: <http://www.mineralfest.com/home.html>

October 23 - 25, 2020 - Hickory, NC - 50th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Host of the 2020 EFMLS Convention. Theme: "North Carolina: America's First Gold Rush." Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Avenue Dr SE, Hickory, NC 28602. Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. \$5- adults & good for all 3 days, Free Admission- uniformed law enforcement / military / scouts, approved youth groups & ages 12 & under. Hourly door prizes & grand prize drawing at end of Show, \$1.00 grab bags, 28 vendors with many specimen varieties. Focal display and presentations including; hands-on displays; mini-mine; faceting, cabochon cutting, specimen

identification by geologists; Contact Dean Russell, cvgmcsecretary@aol.com, (828) 303-1448. For all Show info go to: cvgmc.com/SpecialEvents.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

FLUORESCENT MINERAL SHOW
31st Annual Show on OCT. 31!



ULTRAVIOLATION 2020

The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County and the UV Nomads

co-sponsor this unique fluorescent mineral show and sale at the First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd. in Fairless Hills, PA 19030.

Only 2 miles from the new Route 295 and 10 miles from the Philadelphia/Rt 1 exit of the Pa Turnpike

Saturday, October 31, 2020
9am to 4pm

Alternating Periods of Room Darkness and Light

UV Lamps for Sale!

Fluorescent Mineral Displays

Door Prizes. Snacks and beverages available

\$2.00 admission; All kids under 12 free with paying adult

For Dealer information call Lee McIlvaine at 215.713.8020 or email uvgeologist@yahoo.com; \$30 per 8 ft table

From: Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce [<mailto:director@mtidachamber.com>]

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 2:57 PM

Subject: 33rd World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig Cancelled

After careful and deep consideration, the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce has made the decision to cancel the World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig, scheduled for September 25th and 26th.

This was a difficult decision to make but a decision which we believe is best for everyone. We look forward to hosting this event in the future at a time when we are confident we can maintain the health and safety of our community, attendees, and participants. Please know that if you have registered and paid for this event, a refund check will be mailed to you. Stay safe and healthy, and we hope to see you next year!

Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce
 124 Highway 270 W.
 P.O. Box 6
 Mt. Ida, AR 71957
 870-867-2723

Rock and Gem Word Search

by Rich Simcsak

This is a first attempt to have the newsletter something people do more than read and delete from their email. If this is seen as a "good thing" for the newsletter to make it a bit more interactive, I will attempt to continue with other Themed Word Searches. **Recommendations are always welcomed!!**

C	A	F	P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M	W	Q	U	Q
K	G	E	E	T	I	C	L	A	C	R	R	H	U	J
O	D	E	A	L	S	D	D	L	O	G	S	A	E	L
B	R	Y	I	O	D	N	S	B	B	X	R	T	S	S
S	P	T	U	P	O	S	X	W	A	T	I	B	I	A
I	F	E	T	M	T	U	P	L	Z	R	E	L	O	P
D	G	T	A	E	Q	E	L	A	A	L	V	R	U	P
I	K	I	N	R	D	M	T	B	R	E	Y	C	Q	H
A	D	R	R	B	L	E	Y	I	R	Z	M	Y	R	I
N	A	Y	E	H	N	R	P	W	N	R	Y	R	U	R
G	D	R	O	I	O	A	G	Y	M	O	E	B	T	E
B	Y	D	O	W	R	L	F	S	R	B	Z	W	U	O
L	K	P	R	F	C	D	E	L	M	I	U	A	K	R
K	A	R	U	T	I	L	E	A	J	U	T	L	M	L
L	A	E	T	T	Z	A	P	O	T	J	B	E	O	A

The following words should be findable in this Word Search. Good Luck!!

AMAZONITE	GOLD	RUTILE
AMBER	LEAD	SAPPHIRE
BARITE	OBSIDIAN	SILVER
BERYL	PEARL	SMRMC
DIAMOND	PLATINUM	TOPAZ
EMERALD	PYRITE	TURQUOISE
FELDSPAR	QUARTZ	ZIRCON
GARNET	RUBY	

**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

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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