



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

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

Please..Stay Healthy.



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2020 / 2021 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
SEPTEMBER	MEETING CANCELED	MEETING CANCELED
OCTOBER	MEETING CANCELED.	MEETING CANCELED
NOVEMBER	TBD	See Below
DECEMBER	<u>Christmas Party</u>	Pot Luck
JANUARY	<u>TBD</u>	See Below
FEBRUARY	<u>TBD</u>	See Below

NEW POLICY

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.

IMPORTANT -- EFMLS INSURANCE NOTICE

EFMLS has received a three-month extension of our insurance program as the current virus has reduced our collecting and show opportunities. If your club has a proof of insurance certificate, please check and verify that it is good through February 15, 2021. If not, please contact Eileen Wimmer, (315) 671-8833, to get a corrected certificate. We do not have specifics or rates at this time information. Information will be posted to the EFMLS.org website as it becomes available. Please ensure the people in your club responsible for these actions are informed of this and any changes as they occur. Gary Bergholdt, EFMLS Treasurer for 2021's insurance program. We are planning to collect money for insurance during the month of January 2021. While 2021 membership dues are not being collected as announced previously, EFMLS directory information will be needed along with the insurance

Field Trips

Field Trips, remember those days when we would all gather for a beautiful day in a quarry, field, riverbank, or a museum? Seems like it was a little short of forever when we all made that last trip. One does not need to wait for a group outing. A trip to local collecting areas with just a friend can be as enjoyable as with a group.

If individual trips or travel with other groups are made, PLEASE SHARE those experiences with your fellow club members! Pictures and a short story is truly appreciated for further sharing on the website AND in the newsletter.

Dave (our infamous Field Trip Coordinator) is "biting at the bit" to coordinate with other clubs once the COVID issues for large groups are better for all. If there are collecting sites that would be interesting to go back to or for the first time, PLEASE email Dave with the suggestion.

With the some of the drastically strange weather the United States has received this year, many collectables/specimens might be easier to find. (and YES, I do believe in Santa Claus.) Erosion along the beachfronts, cliffs eroding, and lower tides showing new material is new grounds for all to explore.

We all hope 2021 will be better than 2020. Enjoy the outdoors safely when you are able. Don't let "Cabin Fever" drive you into an unsafe scenario.

Editors Comments -

Things continue to be 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.

Pictures from Field Trips Passed
Contrary Creek, VA



Davis Quarry, VA



A visitor thought he found a piece of glass at an Arkansas state park. It was a 9-carat diamond.

It's the second-largest diamond ever found at Crater of Diamonds State Park

https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2020/09/28/diamond-arkansas-park/?itid=hp_travel



The 9-carat diamond Kevin Kinard found while visiting Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas on Labor Day. (Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism)

By [Shannon McMahon](#)

September 28, 2020

Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas allows visitors to hand-sift 37 acres of plowed earth for the chance to take home a natural diamond — usually around a quarter of a carat and often found daily. But it's certainly not every day that a visitor lifts a 9-carat stone, as one person did earlier this month.

Arkansan Kevin Kinard visited Crater of Diamonds with some friends on Labor Day to search the volcanic fields for gemstones, which he has done regularly since he was a kid, according to [a news release](#) from Arkansas State Parks. This time, the 33-year-old unearthed a shiny, dark stone about the size of a marble, which he thought might be glass.



Kevin Kinard holds his valuable find. (Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism)

"I almost didn't have [park staff] check my finds, because I didn't think I had found anything," Kinard said in the release. But when one friend went to have her own finds checked, he followed suit with the round stone in hand.

The park's Diamond Discovery Center identified Kinard's rock as a 9.07-carat diamond. "I honestly teared up when they told me," he said. "I was in complete shock!"

The stone is the second-largest diamond ever found at the park, which opened in 1972 and is one of the only public diamond fields in the world. Crater of Diamonds has registered over 240 diamonds this year, according to the news release, and sees an average of about one or two diamonds per day. Visitors often bring their own tools to search the 37-acre diamond field, but they aren't allowed to use battery or motor-powered tools.

"A find like this is always thrilling for the park guest, as well as the park staff, who get to help identify the gem and share in the excitement," Stacy Hurst, secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, said in the release.



The 9-carat diamond is second-largest one ever found at Crater of Diamonds State Park. (Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism)

The previous record for the second-largest diamond found at the park was a 7.44-carat brown diamond found at the park in 2017. In 2019, a Texas woman found a [3.72-carat yellow diamond](#) at the park. The largest diamond ever found at the park is a 16.37-carat white diamond named Amarillo Starlight, which was unearthed in 1975. Assistant Superintendent Dru Edmonds said in the release, “Mr. Kinard’s diamond is very large, with a brandy brown color. It has a rounded, dewdrop shape and a metallic shine typical of all Crater diamonds.”

Lucky visitors who do find diamonds are typically asked to name the stones, and Kinard named his in honor of friends who visited the park with him on Labor Day — the Kinard Friendship Diamond.

“We love to travel together and had such a great time out here,” Kinard said of their trip to the park. “It was a very humbling experience.”

Fossilized Footprints Found in New Mexico Track Traveler With Toddler in Tow

Prehistoric tracks detail a moment when mammoths, sloths and humans crossed paths

By [Livia Gershon](#)

SMITHSONIANMAG.COM

OCTOBER 14, 2020



The footprints found at White Sands National Park are more than 10,000 years old.

A small woman—or perhaps an adolescent boy—walks quickly across a landscape where giant beasts roam. The person holds a toddler on their hip, and their feet slip in the mud as they hurry along for nearly a mile, perhaps delivering the child to a safe destination before returning home alone.

Despite the fact that this journey took place more than 10,000 years ago, a new paper published in the journal [Quaternary Science Reviews](#) manages to sketch out what it might have looked and felt like in remarkable detail.

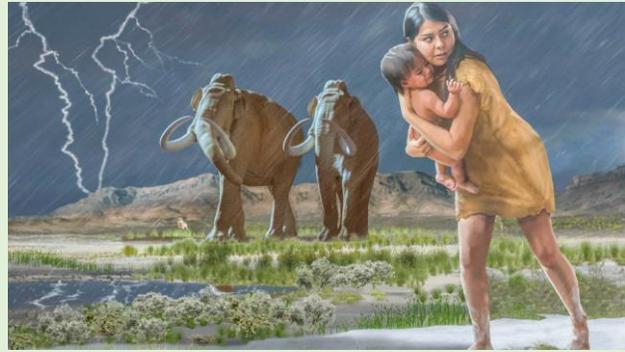
Evidence of the journey comes from fossilized footprints and other evidence discovered in New Mexico's [White Sands National Park](#) in 2018, reports Albuquerque TV station [KRQE](#). Toward the end of the late [Pleistocene epoch](#)—between 11,550 and 13,000 years ago—humans and animals left hundreds of thousands of tracks in the mud along the shore of what was once [Lake Otero](#).

The new paper investigates one specific set of tracks, noting details in the footprints' shapes that reveal how the traveler's weight shifted as they moved the child from one hip to the other.

"We can see the evidence of the carry in the shape of the tracks," write study co-authors [Matthew Robert Bennett](#) and [Sally Christine Reynolds](#), both of Bournemouth University in England, for the [Conversation](#). "They are broader due to the load, more varied in morphology often with a characteristic 'banana shape'—something that is caused by outward rotation of the foot."

At some points along the journey, the toddler's footprints appear as well, most likely because the walker set the child down to rest or adjust their position. For most of the trip, the older caretaker carried the child at a speed of around 3.8 miles per hour—an impressive pace considering the muddy conditions.

"Each track tells a story: a slip here, a stretch there to avoid a puddle," explain Bennett and Reynolds. "The ground was wet and slick with mud and they were walking at speed, which would have been exhausting."



In this artist's depiction, a prehistoric woman holding a child leaves footprints in the mud. [Courtesy of Karen Carr via the

On the return trip, the adult or adolescent followed the same course in reverse, this time without the child. The researchers theorize that this reflects a social network in which the person knew that they were carrying the child to a safe destination.

"Was the child sick?" they ask. "Or was it being returned to its mother? Did a rainstorm quickly come in catching a mother and child off guard? We have no way of knowing and it is easy to give way to speculation for which we have little evidence."

The fossilized footprints show that at least two large animals crossed the human tracks between the outbound and return trips. Prints left by a sloth suggest the animal was aware of the humans who had passed the same way before it. As the sloth approached the trackway, it reared up on its hind legs to sniff for danger before moving forward. A mammoth who also walked across the tracks, meanwhile, shows no sign of having noticed the humans' presence.

White Sands National Park contains the largest collection of Ice Age human and animal tracks in the world. As [Alamogordo](#)

[Daily News](#) reports, scientists first found fossilized footprints at the park more than 60 years ago. But researchers only started examining the tracks intensively in the past decade, when the threat of erosion became readily apparent.

The international team of scientists behind the new paper has found evidence of numerous kinds of human and animal activity. Tracks testify to children playing in puddles formed by giant sloth tracks and jumping between mammoth tracks, as well as offering signs of human hunting practices. Researchers and National Park Service officials say the newest findings are remarkable partly for the way they allow modern humans to relate to their ancient forebears.

“I am so pleased to highlight this wonderful story that crosses millennia,” says Marie Sauter, superintendent of White Sands National Park, in a [statement](#). “Seeing a child’s footprints thousands of years old reminds us why taking care of these special places is so important.”



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.

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

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the public image of recreational collectors.



FACEBOOK Connections

For those of us that use FACEBOOK, there are groups that have rock, minerals and other related hobby efforts. Listed below are three examples that may have some related information one can use or enlighten oneself!!

THE ROCKHOUND CONNECTION

...is a place for Rockhounds to connect and share everything from information and pics to locations to dig and hook up for trips. They have a Saturday Market where you can post items for sale.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/169785333057/>

JASPER LOVERS ONLY

... is for anyone that loves, or is interested in jasper (Imagine that)! It is open to anyone, and any kind of jasper. I want to say that this site makes me sad that we can't find these in our area.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/509183075824068/>

AGATE COLLECTORS WORLDWIDE

... This group is for agate collectors worldwide and the focus is on Agate specimens and the photos are unbelievable.. I gasp when I see the pictures.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Agatecollectorsworldwide/>

ROCK TUMBLING HOBBY LAPIDARY DISCUSSION

...This group is for people who love rock tumbling, hounding, cutting, polishing, cabochons, jewelry making, or any other facet of the lapidary arts.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TumblerRTH/about/>



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.

Common Causes of Color in Diamond	
Pink	Pink is a rare natural color in diamonds. It occurs when the diamond is subjected to stress within the Earth, and those forces cause glide planes of carbon atom displacement within the diamond crystal. When light passes through the planes, red light is selectively transmitted. The red light appears pink when the selective transmission is weak. The selective transmission is rarely strong enough to produce a red color.
Red	Red diamonds are extremely rare in nature, and they are the most valuable diamonds when in a pure hue. Like pink diamonds, they have been subjected to stress which deformed the diamond crystal lattice, causing glide planes of carbon atom displacement. When light passes through the planes of displacement, the red wavelengths of light are selectively transmitted. Weak transmission of red light will produce a pink diamond.
Orange	Orange diamonds are very rare. The defect(s) that produce the orange color have not been determined with certainty and may vary from one orange diamond to another. The defects in orange diamonds cause them to selectively absorb blue light and selectively transmit orange.
Yellow	Yellow is the second most common natural color in diamonds. The color is usually caused by nitrogen atoms substituting for carbon in the diamond crystal lattice. This defect causes diamond to selectively absorb blue light and selectively transmit yellow.

Green	Green diamonds are very rare in nature. The color usually develops when high-energy radiation emitted by nearby radioactive mineral grains penetrates the diamond. The radiation knocks carbon atoms out of their position in the diamond crystal lattice, and that defect causes the diamond crystal to selectively absorb red light and selectively transmit green. Green color can also be a result of defects produced by the presence of nitrogen, hydrogen, or nickel within the diamond crystal.
Blue	Blue diamonds are rare in nature. The blue color is most often caused by boron atoms substituting for carbon atoms in the crystal lattice of diamonds that have formed at extreme depths. As little as one boron atom per million carbon atoms can produce a noticeable blue color. Boron in the diamond crystal causes the selective absorption of red light and the selective transmission of blue. [2]
Violet	Violet is one of the rarest natural colors in diamond. It is sometimes caused by substitution of hydrogen in place of carbon in the diamond crystal lattice.
Purple	Purple is another rare color in diamond. In a study of 50 purple diamonds by GIA, they often found H3 and N3 color centers, sufficient enough to influence color. Purple diamonds and some pink diamonds modified by purple often exhibit color concentration along glide planes of carbon atom displacement. [3] [4]
Brown	Brown is the most common natural color in diamonds. The color develops when plastic deformation creates planes of missing and displaced carbon atoms in the diamond crystal lattice. These are known as glide planes, and they are where the brown color is concentrated. They can appear as a series of parallel color bands in the diamond known as "graining".
White	White diamonds occur in nature when the diamond has dense clouds of fine, reflective inclusions. The numerous inclusions can interfere with the passage of light and give the diamond a translucent or opalescent appearance.
Black	Black diamonds with a natural color usually contain such a high density of mineral inclusions that very little light passes through the gem. Common inclusions in black diamonds include graphite, pyrite, or hematite. Black color in heavily fractured diamonds can be caused by graphitization of the fracture surfaces.
<p>Please note: The causes of color listed above are just a few of the many causes of color in natural diamonds. Numerous other natural defects can produce color. People also change or induce color in diamonds by treatments that include irradiation, heating, and coating - and by combinations of multiple treatments. There are many causes of color in diamonds, and researchers are only beginning to understand them.</p>	

<https://geology.com/diamond/colored-diamonds/>

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DIAMOND CUTS

By Rich Simcsak

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

Diamonds are cut in different patterns suiting the stone's maximum possibility of beauty. Below are the some of the cuts possible. Enjoy this month's Word Search!!

ANTIQUÉ CUSHION
 ASSCHER
 BAGUETTE
 BRIOLETTE
 EMERALD
 HEART
 MARQUISE
 OCTAGON
 OVAL

PEAR
 PRINCESS
 RADIANT
 ROUND
 SQUARE
 SQUARE BRILLIANT
 TRIANGLE
 TRILLIANT



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