

Mineral Hill Copper Mine - May 16, 2009

By Christine Proctor



On May 16th three of our Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club members joined the Northern Virginia Mineral Club on a trip to Mineral Hill Copper Mine Tailings.

Members from our group included Christine Proctor, Serena Lee, and Stacey Harris-Styles. This was Serena's second field trip and it was Stacey's first.

We arrived around 9:00am and after a brief safety talk we started a long walk through the woods. Along the way we walked past a big beautiful lake and then up ahead we saw the large gray pile of rocks. When we climbed up towards the top of the pile we were able to spot the greenish blue pieces of Malachite. I was hoping to make some cabochons out of the Malachite, however, some pieces were soft and flaky while others had trace amounts on the surface of rocks or running through them. Regardless the colors were very pretty. We also found some dark green Actinolite, Magnetite, Chalcopyrite, and Quartz.

Ted Carver was the Northern Virginia trip leader and was helpful in identifying rocks as well as one of their members named Casper, since he had visited this area several times before. The most knowledgeable rock hound seemed to be Alec, who was only about thirteen. He was recognized nationally for fossil identification and at the state level for rock and mineral identification.





The weather was great and we hunted for about four hours.

After we gathered up our rocks we started walking back to our vehicles. Of course it took a little longer going back since we were weighed down with all of our treasures. It was a fun trip that was easy to get to and wasn't very far away.