

National Limestone Quarry, PA

By: Tina League

On April 30, 2011 five SMRMC members (Tina, Harry, Joe, Paula and Jim) went on a joint field trip with the Northern Virginia Rock Club to National Limestone Quarry in Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA. The weather was perfect- sunny and seventy. Ted Carver and several No.VA club members (I'm not sure of the count, as some members arrived later in the morning) and SMRMC members gathered at the office to meet with the quarry owner for the safety briefing.



He directed them to an area where the calcite crystals could be found in great quantities due to a recent blasting.

Everyone headed down to the site and began hunting for calcite crystals. Their efforts were rewarded almost instantly as the crystals were abundant.

There was a large pile of boulders that had been blasted from the rock wall that were full of the beautiful stones. Everyone started hammering away and had their buckets full in no time. I found a very large boulder that looked like a giant geode.

Harry pounded away and split it open. It was full of crystals from top to bottom.





We were rewarded with a very nice 2 foot slab covered with crystals on both sides. We also managed to load another large section of the same boulder into the truck to split later. There were also boulders covered in purple fluorite that were chiseled away on for specimens for several collectors.



Around noon Jim, Ted and the rest of his group headed up the hill to look for wavellite and fossils. Harry and I and Joe and Paula stayed behind in the crystal area to hunt through more boulders. We all found some very nice specimens and had a great time at the quarry.



Ted packed up around 2:00 to head to another fossil site in the area. It was a wonderful day and we're looking forward to another visit to this site in the near future.