

Field Trip Report to the Herkimer Diamond Mines May 9-13, 2011

By Bob Davidson

Trip participants were Tom and Cobb Allison, Tina and Harry League, Ed and Penny Masuoka, and myself.



Cobb and Pat Copeland, a regular at the mine, are discussing what to do next.



Ed and Penny found several nice loose crystals and matrix pieces on their first day of mining. On day two they went to the Ace of Diamonds next door where they found even more along with several pieces of gray and brown Stramatolites, which date back to the origin of the earth.



Joe found several nice crystals on his first day by breaking rock that had been discarded by others.



This is a rare picture of "Diamond Jim" showing Paula how to find crystals. Jim has been a fixture at the mine for over 30 years and has taught hundreds of visitors, including me, the art of lifting and breaking rock. From what I'm told he has found tens of thousands of crystals and has never sold a one. Now in his mid-80's he's slowing down a bit but can still swing a mean hammer.



The prize for finding the most crystals has to go to Harry and Tina. They worked hard all day long and it really paid off.



Hey Tina, Watch out for the truck!