Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

ROCK TALK JAN/FEB 2023

28 MARCH 2023 at 1900 (7 PM)
Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL
(next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)
North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

A Message from President Joe (Davis)

Hello fellow rockhounds. I hope all are well and enjoyed time with family and friends this holiday season. This is the time of year that we reflect and make resolutions. We had a good 2022 and I think we are going to have a better 2023. My first year as president is over and I have learned much. We have grown as a club.

Our membership was 44 at the beginning of 2022 and now we have 84 members. Kurt started a Facebook page for the club, and it now has 185 followers. We had a successful Rock Show. The club auction and Christmas party were both fun. We also had good programs that were both educational and enjoyable.

I really feel good about 2023 and the direction that the club is going. We have an awesome club, but I think it is going to be even better. The number of new Executive Board members is encouraging. I want to thank the Board members that are stepping down for their years of service. I would especially like to thank Dave L. for doing so many of the jobs himself.

Now he can enjoy a breather and we can help carry the load. The demographics of our club is also healthier.

We are now attracting younger members and even juniors now. We are getting new ideas and new ways of doing things, and new talents.

I would like to see several things in 2023. We need someone to chair the committee for the Rock Show. I would also like to have an Awards Committee to recognize the hard work that is done by members. I want to travel this year. We need people to volunteer to do programs, assist with the show, and come up with ideas for fieldtrips and newsletter articles. Rich does an excellent job with the newsletter, but his life would be so much easier if you send in articles and ideas.

I want to travel this year. Some ideas are Herkimer, Arkansas, and Utah. If you have a place you want to go, let Dave or me know. Maybe, just maybe we can work it out.

As for the resolution thing, I resolve to do a better job communicating. I will check my e-mail more often (joeflintstone@yahoo.com), TRY to carry my cell more (240-298-4214) and I might even write an article for the newsletter.

March Program

"We Have Purple. A New Find of Purple Apatite at Maine's Pulsifer Quarry"
Bob Farrar

It's about a new find of purple apatite at the Pulsifer Quarry in Maine that I witnessed, and participated in, last summer. The Pulsifer Quarry is the most famous apatite locality in North America, if not the world. Until last summer, no apatite had been found there in 26 years. The new find shows that this famous locality is not extinct, and hopes are high for more specimens in the future. *Bob Farrar*

EDITOR'S CORNER

This edition is a dual month effort. Then there will be a February/March Edition towards the end of February/ beginning od March. If there are ANY inputs/ideas/etc please send them on!!

We curretly have an opening for the Vice President/Membership Chairperson. Those that would like to take this challenge on to expand/maintain the membership levels the club is enjoying please contact Joe Davis!

Our Club Charter is currently being reviewed to update the document. The March business meeting will have time for club members to discuss the proposed changes and vote on the final edition. This is YOUR club. Please attend to voice your concerns and approval of the revised charter. Never know when the "40 pound heads" making changes leaves out something very obvious!!

IN THIS EDITION

NEXT MONTH

The "Last" visit to the Morefield Gem Mine?

DECEMBER 2022 MINUTES

SMRMC December 2022 MINUTES
Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD
December 21,, 2022

This month did not have an "official" business meeting. A quick discussion was held for end of year topics then closed for the Annual Christmas Party and Gift Exchange. Apologies for not having pictures, but overall feelings by many was it was an outstanding evening to close out the 2022 year. Next meeting will be held 28 March 2023. See everyone then!!

In the JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 ROCK TALK:	
TOPIC	**PAGE**

2022 / 2023 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	**PROGRAM**	**REFRESHMENTS**
28 MAR 2023	**"We Have Purple. A New Find of Purple Apetite at Maine's Pulsifer Quarry", Bob Farrar**	**Paul & Linda**
25 APR 2023	**Quarry Safety - Rich Simcsak**	**Paula & Joe**
23 MAY 2023	**Rock Tumbling Basics - Kenny Jameson**	**Teresa & Milton**
27 JUN 2023	**TBD**	**Ralph G**
25 JUL 2023	**Geode Cracking - Jim White**	**Jim W**
22 AUG 2023	**Annual Auction**	**Pot Luck (??)**
26 SEPT 2023	**TBD**	**TBD**
24 OCT 2023	**"Remnants of Ancient Life" Dale Greenwalt will discuss his new book, and book signing**	**TBD**
28 NOV 2023	**TBD**	**TBD**
TBD DEC 2023	**Christmas Party**	**Pot Luck**

Dates are tentative. Changes are possible due to a multitude of reasons that are always beyond our control.

2023 Programs
Volunteers are WELCOMED!!

It is that time of year we begin the search for new briefers / topics for discussion at our monthly gatherings. Topics that amuse, amaze us, teach us, make us re-think, and more are needed outside the "standard" events we have scheduled. I emplore the club members - please think/volunteer programs for the club. This includes those ever fantastic snacks and drinks that are brought in. Susan will be estatic if you can assist in ANY WAY for programs or refreshments!!.

FACEBOOK Page Is Growing!!

Kurt is maintaing our ever growing FACEBOOK Page and is looking for pictures of the club members collections and description of where those items were collected. This social media effort is helping share what this club is doing and can help it expand even further.

If you are not "FACEBOOK Friendly" or "Computer Savy", Kurt is happy to assist you in navigating these "internet waters" safely to share your stories.

FEBRUARY 2023 EFMLS NEWSLETTER, Page 7

CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR (CROY)

The **Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club** honors **Kurt Knower** as our 2023 Club Rockhound of the Year. Our club had a difficult time during 2020. The same small group of people came to meetings, and did all of the work. COVID prevented in person meetings. We lost our meeting place, found a new one, and reached for normalcy. Kurt Knower, a retired school teacher, joined the club and started our FACEBOOK page. The FACEBOOK group grew to 183 members. Some joined our club. Kurt became the Vice President for Membership. During 2022 membership grew from 44 to 84, largely because of Kurt's effort. We now have enough members that we get volunteers when asked! For these reasons, we honor Kurt Knower as our Club Rockhound of the Year.

Respectfully, Joe Davis, President, SMRMC

Calendar of Events /ODDS AND ENDS

March 4-5, 2023 - Wilmington, DE - Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society, Doubletree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803. Saturday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information visit the club's website: http://www.dmsrocks.org/

March 10-11, 2023 - Richboro, PA - 47th Annual Micromount Symposium hosted by the Leidy Micromount Society. Two Day event: Friday March 10, 2023, noon to 6pm & Saturday, March 11th, 2023, 9am to 6pm. Same NEW location: Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd, Richboro, Pa. 18954. Two Speakers: Friday- Brittany A. Cymes, Ph.D TOPIC: Microscopy of Solar Wind Particles Trapped in Lunar Surface Minerals. Saturday - Robert A. Carlton, Ph.D Topic: Mineral Analysis for the Micro-Mineral Collector. Table space (for two days): $25.00 & $40.00 (full table, 6ft). Visitor's Fee (no table):$5.00 Friday & $10.00 Saturday (includes lunch) Reservations/ Admission: Make checks payable to; Don McAlarnen, 916 Senator Rd, East Norriton, PA 19403 (610) 584-1364 Questions: Email: donmcalarnen@outlook.com

March 18-19, 2023 - Gaithersburg, MD - Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc., Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information visit http://www.glmsmc.com/

March 25-26, 2023 – Plymouth Meeting, PA - 2023 Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA., (PA Turnpike, exit 333; or I-476, exit 20) Free Parking. Saturday March 25, 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday, March 26, 10 am to 4 pm. Adults: $7.00. Kids 12 and under: $2.00; Uniformed scouts and troop leaders free. Special Features: On both days a line-up of distinguished professional speakers will be presented. In addition, there will be fossil and mineral displays, educational materials, door prizes and a food concession. Thirty dealers will offer fossils, minerals, crystals, and jewelry from all over the world, as well as books, decorative items, and other merchandise. Demonstrations of microspecimens will be presented throughout the show by the Leidy Microscopical Society. Young visitors can enjoy the annual fossil dig for children, and the kid's corner with free mineral gifts. Information: www.phillyrocks.org. Contact: Cheryl Leibold, cleibold@verizon.net.

March 25-26, 2023 -- **Wysox, PA** -The 53rd Annual Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club will be held on March 25(9-5) and 26(10-4) at the Wysox Vol. Fire Hall, 111 Lake Rd., Wysox, PA. Admission adults - $3.00 , students - $1.00 , under 8 free. Contact Bob McGuire - 570-928-9238 uvbob1942@gmail.com

March 25-26, 2023 - **Chambersburg , PA** - Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club Show - Venue: Eugene C. Clarke Jr Community Center, 235 South 3rd St., Chambersburg , PA 17201 Exit 18 off I-81, West on Rt. 30, Left at 3rd Street. Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Website: https://www.facebook.com/Franklin-County-Rock-and-Mineral-Club-1601767103396099/

April 1-2, 2023 - **Orange, CT** - 48th Annual Show New Haven Mineral Club - Annual Gathering of Rock Hounds and Collectors - Minerals - Gems - Fossils – Jewelry - 21 Top Notch Dealers! Saturday 9:30AM - 5:00PM Sunday 10AM - 4:30PM, Amity Middle School, 100 Ohman Avenue, Orange, CT 06477

April 22, 2023 - **West Friendship, MD**- 32nd Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM, Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, MD 21794 Free Admission and Parking, Minerals, Original Jewelry, Fossils, Rough & Cut Gemstones, Silent Auctions, Door Prizes. Free minerals for kids. www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org. Directions: From Baltimore take I-70 to Rt. 32 south; Turn right on Rt. 144 west Fairgrounds Road is half a mile on the right. From Washington area – Routes 29 or 95 North to Rt. 32 west/north; turn left on Rt. 144 west- Fairgrounds road is a half of a mile on the right

April 29, 2023 (Rain date: April 30, 2023) – Cherry Hill, NJ - 4th Annual South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show. 1721 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08054. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, (Rain date: Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM). For more information visit the website: www.sjmineralshow.com or Facebook: www.facbook.com/sjmineralshow

Dino-mite find! Microraptor died 120 million years ago with the FOOT of a small animal lodged in its ribcage - marking the first record of a dinosaur eating a mammal

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-11561361/Microraptor-died-120-million-years-ago-FOOT-small-animal-lodged-ribcage.html

Polished stones discovered in a burial mound near Stonehenge contain traces of GOLD and may have been part of a 4,000-year-old goldsmith's toolkit, experts claim

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-11545329/Polished-stones-near-Stonehenge-4-000-year-old-goldsmiths-TOOLKIT.html

Access to Past EFMLS Newsletters!!

We've added a protected folder that will keep email spam bots from crawling the newsletters. https://efmls.org/newsletters/ entry requires only a simple **password: blackopal** You can share this freely by email. It's not high security but will keep out spammers and bots

Girl, 9 years old, discovers rare prehistoric megalodon tooth in Maryland waters: 'I couldn't believe it'

https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/girl-9-years-old-discovers-rare-prehistoric-megalodon-tooth-maryland-waters-couldnt-believe-it

Young Molly Sampson discovered a 5-inch-long, 15 million-year-old megalodon tooth

A 9-year-old girl from Prince Frederick, Maryland, has made the ultimate paleontological discovery: a 15 million-year-old megalodon tooth.

Molly Sampson, along with her sister, Natalie Sampson, 17, and her dad, Bruce Sampson, went out to hunt "treasure" in a bay near Calvert Cliffs on Christmas Day.

The young girl was ready for the day's fossil hunt because she was able to wear the new insulated waders she had been "begging" for, she told Fox News Digital.

Molly Sampson and her treasure hunting team left their home at 9:30 a.m. to hunt for shark teeth.

While out in knee-deep water courtesy of her new Christmas waders, she looked over and saw her Christmas miracle: a 5-inch-long megalodon tooth.

Molly Sampson, a 9-year-old from Prince Frederick, Maryland, found a 5-inch-long megalodon tooth in the water during a fossil-hunting trip with her sister and father on Christmas Day. (Alicia Sampson)

Her sister and father went over to see what Molly Sampson was so excited about. They were amazed by the discovery.

"I am so thrilled about the shark's tooth Molly found," Bruce Sampson told Fox News Digital.

"Not only because of the size and rarity of the find, but also because of the joy and excitement I get to see in my kids with all of their discoveries."

"I was so excited, and I kept thinking I was dreaming," Molly Sampson said.

Molly Sampson (left), her sister Natalie Sampson and dad Bruce Sampson left their home at 9:30 a.m. on Christmas morning, Dec. 25, to look for fossils in a bay near Calvert Cliffs. (Alicia Sampson)

It was something I have always wanted to find, and I couldn't believe it."

Bruce Sampson said he was "shocked" by his daughter's "once-in-a-lifetime find."

"Don't get used to it," he said he joked with her. "This is the kind of find every fossil hunter dreams of."

This is not the first time she's found a megalodon tooth during her fossil hunts — but she's never found one this large.

Molly Sampson of Maryland, who is in fourth grade, compares the biggest tooth she's ever found — to the smallest. (Alicia Sampson)

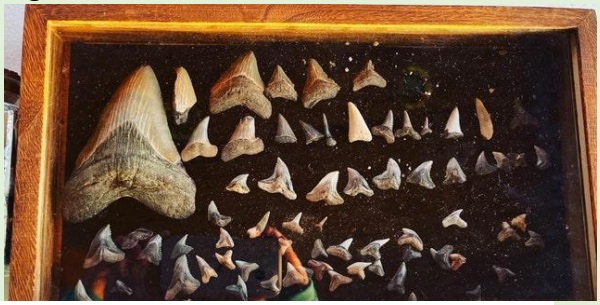
"I have found five other megalodon teeth, but they are only an inch or two" in size, she said.

"Finding one this big is very rare [and unique] because of how big it is."

When Molly Sampson came home from her discovery, she whispered to her mom, "I know God put that there for me," the family told Fox News Digital.

Paleontologist weighs in the family took the prehistoric treasure to Dr. Stephen J. Godfrey, curator of paleontology at Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland, to see what information he could share about the creature that once had the tooth.

"From where she found the tooth along Calvert Cliffs, it is about 15 million years old. So it came from the middle of what geologists would refer to as the Miocene epoch," Godfrey told Fox News Digital in an interview.



Molly Sampson has over 400 fossils in her collection, according to her Instagram account. (Alicia Sampson)

Scientists are able to age the sediment in which a fossil is found to then age the fossil itself, along with the presence of "radiometric isotopes" that can be used to "radiometrically age" the sediments in which a fossil is found, Godfrey said.

"Radioactive isotopes change over time," he also said, "and it is that very constant (clock-like) rate of change that can be used to age the sediments and by extension the fossils within."

Based on the size of the tooth, Godfrey was able to give an estimated size of the creature to which the tooth belonged.

Molly Sampson (center) visited Dr. Stephen J. Godfrey (sitting beside her), curator of paleontology at Calvert Marine Museum, who helped share intriguing information about the megalodon tooth she found. (Alicia Sampson)

"Molly's meg tooth would have come from a shark between 45-50 feet long. So, when it shed that tooth, it would not have been as large a megalodon as it could have grown to be," Godfrey said.

"It was a 'young teenager,'" he said. "The very largest megs are calculated to have been 65 feet long."

Molly Sampson's huge megalodon tooth is the largest in her collection, but it also is one of the largest found in the Calvert Cliffs area, Godfrey said.

Megalodons are "one of the — if not the largest marine macropredator the world has ever known," Godfrey told Fox News Digital. (Tim Scheirer/Courtesy Calvert Marine Museum)

Megalodons are "one of the — if not the largest marine macropredator the world has ever known," said Godfrey.

"Megalodons lived from about 25 million years [ago] to about 2.5 million years ago."

He added, "They shaped [and dominated] the global marine ecosystem, global marine food-webs and the evolution of many different kinds of marine mammals, their preferred pMolly Sampson shared the news of her prehistoric treasure find online — and it has since garnered numerous responses from people all over the world, including India, Spain, France and Germany.

"I have gotten messages from adults telling me I have inspired them to go outside more and explore," said Molly Sampson.
rey."

Molly Sampson started fossil hunting with her father, Bruce Sampson, when she was very young — and hopes one day to become a paleontologist. (Alicia Sampson

Molly Sampson has been fossil hunting with her dad ever since she was little. The beaches with cliffs in Calvert County have been a great spot to find prehistoric treasure, the family said.

"I will never stop!" she told Fox News Digital. "I have told my mom I want to collect fossils and study them when I grow up like a paleontologist."

The girl said she's enjoyed sharing her findings with others on her website and social media account dedicated to her discoveries.

"When I picked [the tooth] up, I was the first person to touch it and that is really cool to think about," Molly Sampson told Fox News Digital. (Alicia Sampson)

"I think it's really cool that I am the first human to ever hold that tooth since it was in the mouth of the megalodon," Molly Sampson said.

"When I picked it up, I was the first person to touch it and that is really cool to think about."

On Jan. 25, Molly Sampson was welcomed to the floor by the House of Delegates of Maryland.

On Jan. 25, Molly Sampson was brought onto the Maryland House floor during a session and honored for her discovery of a prehistoric tooth. (Alicia Sampson)

While the legislators were in session, they honored her for her discovery in a House Resolution by the delegates.

The document she received said in part, "The House of Delegates of Maryland offers its sincerest congratulations to Molly Sampson, in recognition of your discovery of a prehistoric megalodon shark's tooth in the Chesapeake Bay."

Pennsylvania Man finds fossilized Whale Skull at Calvert Cliffs Beach

https://southernmarylandchronicle.com/2022/12/23/penn-man-finds-fossilized-whale-skull-at-calvert-cliffs-beach/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Daily+Headlines+-++TODAY&utm_campaign=Southern+Maryland+-+Daily+Headlines+%28Fri%29

SOLOMONS, MD – Dec. 22, 2022 – While combing Matoaka Beach for fossils and shark teeth, Pennsylvania resident, Cody Goddard, made a fascinating discovery. A large hardened block of sediment lying on the beach had an unusual fossil protruding from one end (Photo 1).

After further investigation, Goddard realized he had stumbled upon a Miocene fossil whale skull. He then reached out to Dr. Stephen Godfrey, Curator of Paleontology at the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM), who confirmed, by way of a video text, that the fossil encased in the sediment was indeed a whale skull and quickly made the trip to visit the fossil's location in person.

Moving the 650 lb. block of sediment safely from the beach to the museum was no small task. Godfrey and team devised a plan to extract the residue from the beach first by small pontoon boat, then by truck (Photo 2) to CMM's Fossil Preparation Lab, located in the Paleontology Hall inside the museum.

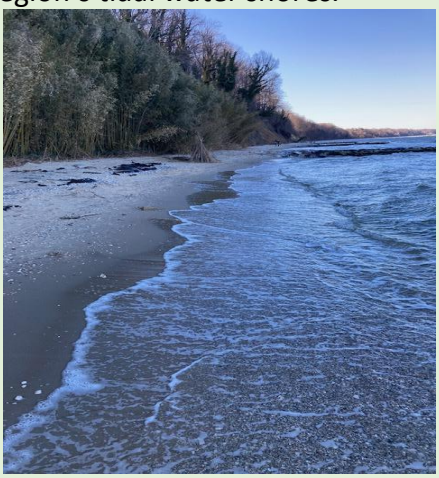
The extraction took place Monday, December 19th, with a team of paleontology enthusiasts (Photo 3), including Goddard, who traveled down to share in the excitement. Godfrey said, "It felt like we had won the World Cup of Paleontology! We are blessed to have many avocational and professional paleontologists locally."

"We don't yet know what species of Miocene baleen whale this is," says Godfrey, "We will only know once it has been prepared. It might even be our greatest preparation challenge, depending on how indurated the entombing sediments are." The affectionately christened "Cody" skull is the most complete fossil whale skull ever recovered from that section of Calvert Cliffs.

The unprepared "raw" fossil skull can be seen on a blue hydraulic cart in the museum's Fossil Preparation Lab. Air scribe-like tools (like miniature jackhammers) will be used to delicately remove the very hardened sediments that encase most of the skull. That process, undertaken by our volunteers, will take many months. Once the bones that make up the top of the skull are uncovered, we should then be able to identify it, if it is a currently known species of Miocene baleen whale.

The "Wow Factor" at Matoaka
by Dave Lines

Throughout both days on Saturday and Sunday, January 14 and 15, 2023, the wind blew strongly from the northwest. In fact, there was a Gale Warning from the National Weather Service for our area. Anticipating extra low tides, I sent out a Short Notice Trip Announcement email to all members of our club (Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club) saying it was a good time to hunt fossils along our region's tidal water shores.

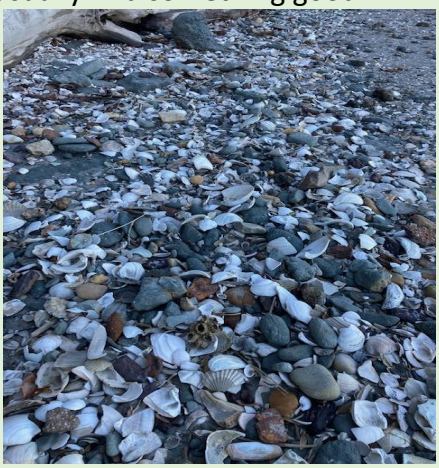


On Sunday afternoon, I headed to Matoaka (pronounced "Mat – toe - ock-ka") Cabins near the town of Saint Leonard in Calvert County because it offers access to a long stretch of Chesapeake Bay beach that has yielded many fossils in past trips. Arriving about the time of the "predicted" low tide at 2 pm, I paid my $10 day use fee at their office and headed down the path to the beach. A few minutes before, I had been surprised by the 10 or so vehicles parked in the designated "day use parking area" because I had never seen more than 3 there. When I reached the beach, I was shocked at the "horde" of folks already there searching for shark's teeth and more. People were everywhere along the entire beach as far as I could see --- both north and south.

Remembering the Maryland law that allows public access below the mean high tide mark along all its tidal beaches, I headed south because it looked less crowded. Results, after a half hour of looking: --- I did not find anything worth taking home. So, I headed back north. By 3 pm, the crowd on Matoaka Beach had thinned and I began a slow walk along the water's edge looking for sharks' teeth. The conditions were less than ideal because the water was very turbid and the waves seemed to be growing larger with the wind shifting to more from a northerly direction. Also, the tide had started to rise. I spotted several small teeth in the surf and was able to pick up 2 by literally stepping on each tooth with my boot and holding them down until the wave wash subsided long enough to pick up my foot and grab the tooth.

It was hit or miss all the way for about a quarter of a mile until I reached the area where the cliffs had been actively eroded by the Bay. Beginning at that point, there were at least 200 yards of large and

small cliff falls with the beach covered in several places with fossil shells, chunks of blue marl and some rocks. Of course, there were people tracks everywhere, so it was a real challenge to find something remaining that had not been crushed or stepped on. Yet, in situations like this, I find that if I just slow down to a snail's pace and diligently search every inch of the clutter, I can usually find something good.



This time was no exception as I found numerous intact clusters of fossil giant barnacles, 2 more shark teeth, several types of undamaged fossil shells, an incomplete fossil cervical vertebra from a whale, some fossil coral, 2 ecphora, 2 fossil moon snails and 4 pieces of what I thought were chunks of "fossil sea bottom that contained crab or shrimp burrows". One of these rocks was 8 inches long and had several very complete tunnels in it.

That last item is where is gets interesting. Flo Strean (our former club member and avid fossil collector [now deceased]) had always told me that the one-inch diameter holes and tunnels in this rock-hard material were made by shrimp or crabs. But this time, I googled it and found a reference to a recent (2022) scientific article published by Dr. Stephen Godfrey of the Calvert Marine Museum. It seems that the article had pictures of a rock with holes in it that looked very much like the one that I had found. The googled article explained in detail that the "rock" was coprolite from a marine crocodile from the Miocene period (8 to 22 million years old) and the "holes" in it had been made by an unknown organism that ate "poop".

Although my specimen had all the correct tunneling and scratch marks inside the burrows, I was still unsure. So, I emailed Dr. Godfrey with some pictures. He replied:

"Hi Dave, Many thanks for your email and great photos.

Yes, that is what you have found. J

It's unusual for coprolites like that to be found at Matoaka.

I include the published paper here. Best, Stephen

Stephen J. Godfrey PhD
Curator of Paleontology Calvert Marine Museum"

So, this rock that I had found was actually a "specimen" of crocodile feces that had been "burrowed" by a poop-eating critter millions of years ago and was then fossilized. And because it is so unique in the fossil world, it had been given its own scientific name --- Transexcrementum cuniculus. It had turned out to be a really great fossil hunting trip. WOW!

The Abstract of the article [titled **"A new ichnotaxonomic name for burrows in vertebrate coprolites from the Miocene Chesapeake Group of Maryland, U.S.A by Stephen J. Godfrey and Alberto Collareta**"] follows: A new ichnotaxonomic name, Transexcrementum cuniculus, is applied to tubular (cylindrical) tunnelings in coprolites. The type series of T. cuniculus consists of burrowed vertebrate (probably crocodilian) coprolites that originate from the Miocene Chesapeake Group of Maryland, U.S.A. These complex trace fossils exhibit the following combination of characters: burrows not lined nor backflled; opening and transverse sections sub-circular; diameter supra-millimetric, up to ca. 20 mm, rather constant throughout; inner termination(s) rounded/conical; tunnel morphology straight or gently curved, sometimes branching; internal sculpturing sometimes present in form of short and irregularly oriented scratches and gouges. Clusters of the same kinds of gouges may also mark the outer surface of the coprolite. The tunneling tracemaker likely engaged in coprophagy; however, it is unclear what kind of organisms could have produced these burrows. Judging from the overall rarity of Transexcrementum cuniculus occurrences in the fossil record, the tracemaker responsible for the burrows might also have been rare, or fed on feces only occasionally.

Finding Petrified Wood

By Ellis Myers, 5 Years Old (transcribed by Grandma)

January 7, 2023

On December 17, 2022, I went on a field trip with my Sir (aka Grandfather) to find petrified wood. This was my first Rock Club field trip. We went to a farm in Townsend, Delaware. We walked around a field and found a man who gave us some small pieces of petrified wood so we would know what it looked like. We walked around the field for a long time. It was very cold, so we took breaks to warm up in the car. As we were walking back to the car for a break, I found one big chunk of petrified wood all by myself.

We were going to go home, but I spotted a playground. When we were at the playground, we found so many more things, such as a bridge on the playground. The bridge was super high up, but I was very brave, and I walked on the bridge. And, then I found some rock stairs and I went down them and didn't fall. Next, Sir said it was time to leave, but I asked if I could have one more ride on the triceratops thing. Sir let me ride it again, but Sir wasn't able to rock it back and forth because it was stuck in the ground. Then we left the playground and went home and had a small doughnut snack.

WILDACRES 50TH ANNIVERSARY WORKSHOP

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to make that trip to Wildacres this year?

The clock is ticking, marking off the minutes and hours before the EFMLS Workshops' 50TH year at Wildacres this May 15-21. There are plenty of spaces to be filled. If you have never been to an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, this May would be an ideal time to find out why so many people rave about the week and return year after year. In addition to the regular activities (classes, lectures by the speaker-in-residence, tailgate, auction, etc.), special activities are being planned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wildacres workshops. You have to be there to participate in the activities.

The instructors are superb and well-known. Want to know what classes are being offered, who is teaching them, see the following list. Attached is a "Class Schedule" that gives detailed information about each class.

- **Chainmaille—Jim Hird**
- **Faceting—Bernie Emery**
- **Gem Tree Art—Linda Boronczyk**
- **Intarsia—Chuck Bruce**
- **Mineral ID--Mike Wise of the Smithsonian Institute**
- **Silversmithing—Basic and intermediate--Richard Meszler.**
- **Soapstone Carving—Ken Valko**
- **Wire Wrapping—Jacolyn Campbell**

A registration form is attached. We have also added this information on the 50th Anniversary session at Wildacres to the EFMLS Website (www.efmls.org/wildacres).

The fall Speaker-in-Residence will be Helen Serras-Herman. Helen is a world-known artist who hails from Arizona. She will give a series of lectures that are sure to be interesting, educational and fun. Read her attached bio.

Wildacres is infectious! Wildacres is a relaxing week away from the pressures of daily life and the hustle and bustle of car noise, blaring radios and TV's, etc. The retreat is in the mountains just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, NC. The "noises" you hear on campus are the singing of birds, people laughing and talking, and perhaps the playing a musical instrument along with the hammering or sawing of folks creating wonderful projects in their classes.

The cost for the week is more than reasonable at $455 per person. Where else can you get room and board, instruction in a class or two of your choice, great food, and a chance to learn from terrific instructors and hear an excellent "Speaker-in-Residence" for that low a cost for a week? Add to that a chance to visit various locations around the beautiful countryside on mid-week Activity Day, enjoy (and bid on) items at an always fun auction, buy or sell at the tailgate, etc.

There is not enough space here to tell you all the great advantages and features of Wildacres. Here is a quick overview:

- See for miles across the Blue Ridges from nature-bounded decks.
- Meet the nicest of people and form many lasting relationships.
- Sleep like a baby amidst towering oaks and pines.
- Reward yourself with super jewelry/cut stones/carvings/classes you make special.
- Have fun.
- Take home to your club and freinds wonderful tales of your special week.

Why procrastinate? Why not fill in the registration form and send it in today? Class sizes are limited, thus students for each class are assigned on a first-come, first-assigned basis. You definitely want to be assigned the class that is your first choice. What are YOU waiting for? **Registration is now open. Register today!**

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact:

John Milligan, Registrar (jmilligan@stny.rr.com)

Mark Kucera, Director (mark_j_kucera@yahoo.com)

Wildacres Committee, Steve Weinberger, Chairman

VARIATIONS OF JASPER

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

Jasper is an opaque rock of virtually any color stemming from the mineral content of the original sediments or ash. Patterns arise during the consolidation process forming flow and depositional patterns in the original silica-rich sediment or volcanic ash. Hydrothermal circulation is generally thought to be required in the formation of jasper.

Many thanks once again to **Teddi Silver of Delaware Mineralogical Society** for the idea to use "JASPER" from her January 2023 Newsletter.

ATERIAN
BIGGS
BRUNEAU
BUBBLEBEE
COSMIC
CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN
FONTMAURE
GOLD
KAMBABA
LEIGH VALLEY
LUDLOW
MARIAM
MORRISONITE
MUSHROOM
OCEAN
OWYHEE
POPPY
RAINFOREST
RED
RHYOLITE
SESAME
STONY CREEK
TEENAWAY RIVER

The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

Meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm

Held at the OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

Next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall

3074 Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD 20601

North of the RT 301 / RT 5 intersection

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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