



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

DECEMBER 2025

16 DECEMBER 2025 at 1800 (6:00 PM)

Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

(next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)

North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

DECEMBER PROGRAM

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

We will be starting **one hour early** to be able to conclude before 2100 (9 PM) with our annual Holiday Party. Be prepared for fun and disappointment throughout the night. Amazing different gifts and great food will accompany all this evening!

Please fill out the "Pot Luck" sign up that Sue emailed out earlier this month. This sign up keeps from everyone bringing in the same dessert, meal, drink etc. Imagine ...32 plates of Brussels Sprouts.....

The gift exchange will be the same as last year. the gift once selected can be "taken" twice before it is "frozen". The best gifts are circulated quickly. Remember the gifts need to be "rock" related.

Santa will be there to assist with the gift exchange. And if members take pictures, please share them with Kurt on FACEBOOK and me for the next newsletter.

See everyone next Tuesday!!

IN THIS EDITION

SMRMC MINUTES

25 November 2025

Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD

Meeting minutes will be an "abridged version" due to quick turnaround of meetings.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Tim Smith.

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: Attending: 21. Visitor and soon to be a new member , Cheryl Williams.

SECRETARY: Motion passed/Minutes approved.

TREASURER: Greta reported out the club's finances. She reminded all that dues is due for 2026. Dues stays the same - \$25 for Individuals and \$35 for family.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Not Present

FACEBOOK: 974 members with about 100 visits per day.

PROGRAM: December's meeting will be the annual potluck and Holiday party. Please respond to Sue's email for signing up for the Holiday party "contributions".

Carole and Polly provided this evening's refreshments.

WEBSITE: Nothing new to report.

NEWSLETTER: Rich reported that the November newsletter was published last week. Please send items of interest as soon as possible and encouraged members to send him articles of interest and ideas of what they would like to see in the newsletter as early as possible. He regularly includes details about upcoming rock shows from other clubs. The JAN/FEB edition is planned to be a recap of 2025 events.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: David Lines

Field Trips Report by Dave Lines General note: Dues must be paid up to date to attend field trips (due to Insurance Rules).

Recent past field trips

October 5-13 --- Mt. Ida, AR. 17 of our members dug quartz crystals for 5 days in 4 different quartz crystal mines.

Upcoming field trips.

November 29 --- Joint field Trip with Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club (host) --- Petrified wood in Odessa, DE. (4 members have signed up so far. Anyone interested should sign up directly with Bob Ertman.)

November and December --- TBD. -- Short Notice Fossil Trips to local tidal waters. It depends entirely on weather conditions around the time of full and new moon (which

have the lowest predicted tides). Best if a strong NW wind (20 knots or greater) for at least 1 day (2 days are better) to blow water out of the Bay --- thus exposing more beach for finding fossils. These trips could continue all winter --- IF the air/water temperature remain above freezing. November and December are usually the best months.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion of Officers for 2026 and beyond.

PRESIDENT - Tim

FACEBOOK - Kurt with Ken as backup

TREASURER - Greta

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR - Dave

SECRETARY - Theresa (may need a replacement - possible move)

WEBMASTER - Bob with Maria (tentative intern)

MEMBERSHIP - Carol

PROGRAMS - NEW - Diane Etherton

NEWSLETTER - Yours Truly

NEW BUSINESS

2026 Show - 3 October 2026. Ken is still working on the concept of a 2 day show. Details to follow.

Discussion on possible hunt for vendors for Club name tags and T-Shirts

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8 PM

After refreshments , Diane presented an highly interesting brief of Copper and its mining with a little bit of family history related to some mining.

2026 Programs / Refreshments

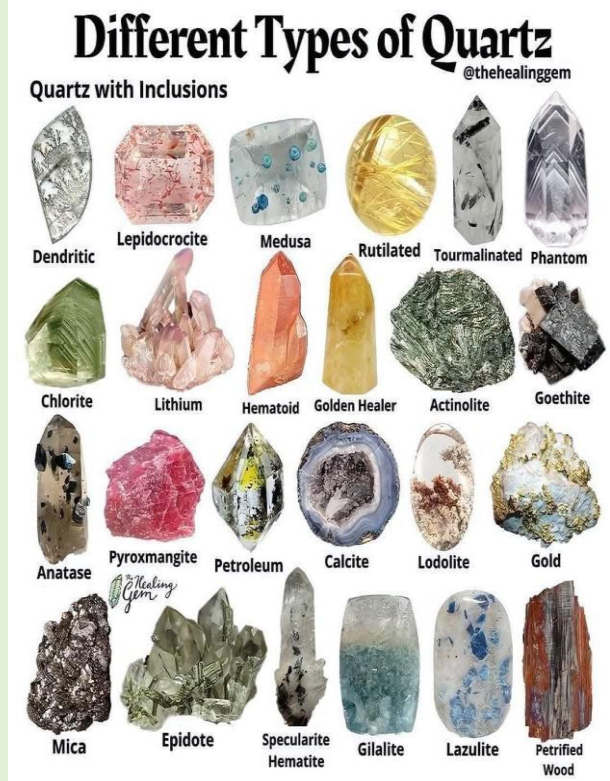
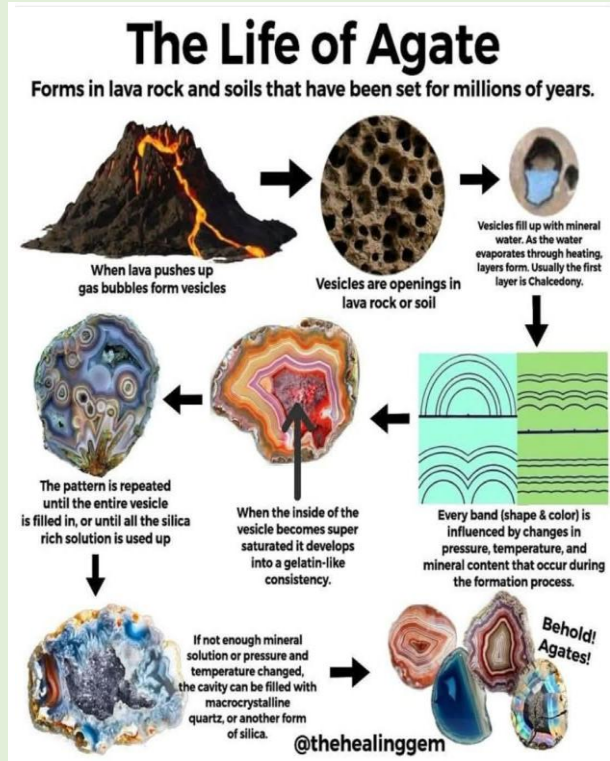
Volunteers and topics are *desperately* needed to expand all members knowledge in various related topics. Having outside speakers is a great addition to our meetings, so if anyone knows someone that would speak on a relatable topic - **PLEASE** contact Diane. She will appreciate **ANY** and **ALL** leads. Always, members speaking on their adventures/knowledge is ALWAYS enlightening to the members and visitors.

Refreshment volunteers are usually easier for many to accomplish. But Jill still needs to fill the calendar quickly to ensure the meeting attendees stomachs do not growl during the programs.

Please contact Diane (or her replacement) with any assistance you desire to extend!

For Best information on forecasted Tide Levels from Dave Lines

Recommend you keep checking the "water levels" on the NOAA website <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/stationhome.html?id=8577330> so you can choose the best location to look for fossils. The water levels at Solomons Island will be similar to the those on the Bay. Purse/Potomac River is 4 hours later. **HAPPY HUNTING.**



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2025 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
16 DEC 2025	HOLIDAY PARTY	POT LUCK
JAN/FEB 2026	NO MEETINGS	Own Home Cooking
24 MAR 2026	TBA	TBA
28 APR 2026	Quarry Safety by Rich Simcsak	TBA
26 MAY 2026	TBA	TBA
23 JUN 2026	TBA	TBA
28 JUL 2026	TBA	TBA
25 AUG 2026	CLUB AUCTION	TBA
22 SEP 2026	TBA	TBA
27 OCT 2026	TBA	TBA
24 NOV 2026	TBA	TBA
22 DEC 2026	HOLIDAY PARTY (Date may change)	POT LUCK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ ODDS AND ENDS

TUCSON, AZ - 23 JAN 2026 to 14 FEB 2026

@Tucson Showplace

Hours are 0900 to 1800. Location: Tucson Showplace Buildings; Address: 1530 S Freeway Ave, Tucson, AZ. 85713 Website: <http://www.tucsonshowplacellc.com/>

GAITHERSBURG, MD - 21-22 MAR 2026 @

Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Building #6, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD. Saturday 1000-1800; Sunday 1100-1600. Admission \$7 (children 11 and under and Scouts in uniform and 4H Youth with \$H identification get in free). Use this link for Coupon \$1 off the admission price for every member of your group! Website: <https://www.glmsmc.com/show.shtml>

NEWS STORIES WITH POSSIBLE INTEREST

Boom in the mining industry: scientists have discovered 'significant quantities' of rare minerals in coal mines

<https://diamonddetailsmcr.co.uk/boom-in-the-mining-industry-scientists-have-discovered-significant-quantities-of-rare-minerals-in-coal-mines/>

History of Diamonds: The Journey of Earth's Oldest Treasure

<https://www.naturaldiamonds.com/science-of-diamonds/history-of-diamonds/>

No Experience Needed: Volunteer With Archaeologists In Maryland

<https://thebaynet.com/no-experience-needed-volunteer-with-archaeologists-in-maryland/>

Rise of lab-grown diamonds leaves Botswana struggling

<https://apnews.com/article/diamonds-botswana-africa-economy-mining-3f2f2e50d21d1a84f0ce86fa0b78d1fe>

World's largest lithium deposit lies under a supervolcano in the U.S

<https://www.earth.com/news/worlds-largest-lithium-deposit-lies-under-a-supervolcano-in-the-us/>

This 37.4 carat diamond is half pink and half colorless

<https://www.earth.com/news/miners-discover-a-37-4-carat-diamond-that-is-half-pink-and-half-colorless/>

Scientists Just Found Dinosaur Footprints on Two Completely Opposite Sides of the Earth

<https://dailygalaxy.com/2025/11/dinosaur-footprints-two-opposite-sides/>

Connecticut high schooler finds 150-million-year-old fossil in Montana

<https://www.foxnews.com/travel/student-unearths-150-million-year-old-dinosaur-fossil-first-day-montana-dig-exciting>

**“Pink gold” surfaces behind the Gulf —
Millions of tons under coal fields could
spark a new rush**

<https://www.eldiario24.com/en/pink-gold-discovery-beneath-coal-field/25833/>

**Lithium mining waste makes stronger,
greener concrete.**

<https://newatlas.com/materials/lithium-mining-waste-concrete/>

**Frozen for 68 Million Years, a Giant Egg
Called ‘The Thing’ Found in Antarctica Is
Turning Prehistoric Science Upside Down**

<https://dailygalaxy.com/2025/11/giant-egg-called-the-thing-found-in-antarctica-frozen-68-million-years/>

**'Supergiant' Gold Deposits Could Be Worth
Over US\$80 Billion**

<https://www.sciencealert.com/supergiant-gold-deposits-could-be-worth-over-us80-billion>

**Man Keeps Rock For Years, Hoping It's
Gold. It Turned Out to Be Way More
Valuable**

<https://www.sciencealert.com/man-keeps-rock-for-years-hoping-its-gold-it-turned-out-to-be-way-more-valuable>

**Fossilized fin found from marine predator
Temnodontosaurus**

<https://www.earth.com/news/fossilized-fin-from-temnodontosaurus-shows-jurassic-marine-predator-used-extreme-stealth/>

**Hydrogen-rich mantle rocks may hold clues
to early life**

<https://www.earth.com/news/scientists-drill-deep-and-find-mantle-rocks-that-act-as-natural-power-plants/>

**He found a muddy rock in his backyard in
2021: after a year of cleaning, it turned out
to be a gem worth €90 million**

<https://diamonddetailsmcr.co.uk/he-found-a-muddy-rock-in-his-backyard-in-2021-after-a-year-of-cleaning-it-turned-out-to-be-a-gem-worth-e90-million/>

**"Blue rush" resurges in America — Up to
250 tons every hour sprouting from the
ground**

<https://www.eldiario24.com/en/america-blue-rush-resurges-rapidly/25831/>

**Big find: 3.36-carat diamond discovered at
Arkansas park**

<https://www.earth.com/news/taking-a-nice-walk-in-the-park-they-found-a-3-36-carat-diamond/>

**Deep drilling shows how ancient fluids
shaped gold at True North**

<https://www.earth.com/news/another-big-gold-discovery-in-canada/>

**Moissanite versus lab-grown diamonds:
Which one should you choose?**

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/style/fashion-and-beauty/article-moissanite-vs-lab-grown-diamonds-which-one-should-you-choose/>

'Uncuttable' black diamond finally shaped to become world's largest

<https://www.thetimes.com/world/europe/article/uncuttable-black-falcon-diamond-worlds-largest-crzbtlbvd>

Kenya discovers largest gold deposit in decades, worth an estimated US\$5.29 billion

<https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/kenya-discovers-largest-gold-deposit-in-decades-worth-an-estimated-usdollar529/dh0pyhr>

Spectacular high-grade gold discovery announced at a U.S. mine -

<https://www.earth.com/news/spectacular-high-grade-gold-discovery-announced-at-a-u-s-mine/>

No one expected to find so much gold in the Abitibi belt

<https://www.earth.com/news/large-gold-deposit-discovery-duparquet-abitibi-belt-could-change-everything-for-region/>

US tariffs ruin education dreams for children in India's diamond hub

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2025/12/9/us-tariffs-ruin-education-dreams-for-children-in-indias-diamond-hub>

Starburst Inclusions in Yellow Diamond Leave GIA Stumped

<https://rapaport.com/news/starburst-inclusions-in-yellow-diamond-leave-gia-stumped/>

Tens of thousands of dinosaur footprints and swim tracks found in South America

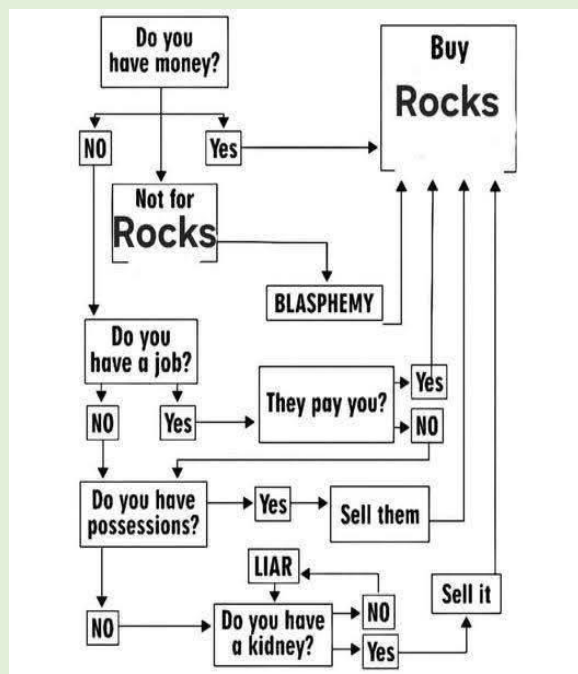
<https://abcnews.go.com/International/tens-thousands-dinosaur-footprints-swim-tracks-found-south/story?id=128141949>

Largest fossil database ever compiled rewrites human origin story

<https://www.earth.com/news/omo-turkana-basin-largest-fossil-database-ever-compiled-uncomfortable-truth/>

Pink Diamond Smashes High Estimate at Sotheby's in Abu Dhabi

<https://rapaport.com/news/32ct-desert-rose-smashes-high-estimate-at-sothebys-in-abu-dhabi/>



Top 10 World's Rarest Gems

- 1 Tanzanite**
 Found only in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, in Northern Tanzania, this blue-purple stone is a highly prized color-shifting gem.
- 2 Taaffeite**
 It is named for Australian gemologist Richard Taaffe, who discovered a cut and polished specimen of the stone in 1945. Only a handful of these precious stones have ever been found, making them a true collector's gem.
- 3 Black Opal**
 The rarest type of Opal, the national gemstone of Australia. Black Opal is also the most valuable gem of its kind.
- 4 Benitoite**
 Found near the San Benito River in California, Benitoite is a blue to purple gemstone first discovered in 1907. Under UV lights, it glows a brilliant chalky blue.
- 5 Red Beryl**
 Also called Scarlet Emerald or bixbite, Red Beryl has only been found in Utah and New Mexico and has been described as 1,000 times more valuable than gold.
- 6 Alexandrite**
 It is named for Tsar Alexander II of Russia and exceedingly rare gemstone. It is a color-changing gemstone, its hue shifts from red to green depending on the light it's exposed to.
- 7 Jadeite**
 Jadeite may sound like the various semi-precious stones known informally as "jade," but this incredibly rare gem is many times more valuable. Prized most when it is colored a deep, translucent green.
- 8 Musgravite**
 Another precious stone in the same family as Taaffeite, this stone's color ranges from a brilliant greenish gray to purple. Musgravite was discovered in 1967 in the Musgrave Range of Southern Australia, and for many years there were only eight known specimens.
- 9 Painite**
 In the 1950s, mineralogist Arthur C.D. Paine encountered an unusual brownish stone in Myanmar (Burma) that turned out to be one of the planet's rarest gems. For decades, only two cut specimens were known to exist, causing the jewel to be more or less "priceless."
- 10 Pink Star Diamond**
 The Pink Star Diamond is a "Fancy Vivid Pink" diamond that was mined in 1999 in South Africa. Weighing in at 59.6 carats, this gem was sold by Sotheby's for a record \$83 million: more than any other diamond - or any gem - ever sold.



COLLECTING SITES - REPRINT FROM NOV 2020

By Rich Simcsak

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

Over the years the SMRMC has visited many sites to collect fossils and minerals. As you search for each site, try to remember the good times that was had by all each time we visited those in this word search! Also check the club's website (SMRMC.ORG) for the trip reports describing the finds club members made.

ENJOY!!

CHESTNUT RIDGE**CONTRARY CREEK****DALE****DIXIE****GRAVES MOUNTAIN****HERKIMER****HK PENN****LUCK****MOREFIELD****MT IDA****ODESSA****PICKERING****PURSE STATE****ROSE RIVER****STERLING HILL****VULCAN****WILLIS MOUNTAIN**



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

We're on the web: SMRMC.ORG

Also on FACEBOOK: Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

SMRMC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Tim Smith

Programs / Vice President

Diane Etherton

Membership / Vice President

Carole Raucheisen

Secretary

Teresa Jones

Webmaster

Bob Davidson

Field Trip Chairman

David Lines

Treasurer

Greta G

Rock Talk Editor

Rich Simcsak

FACEBOOK Coordinator

Kurt Kowner

ITEMS WANTED/FOR SALE

Nothing at this time.....

We all realize we have a little too much of a good thing and must share those items with others - but at a cost.

If any member wants to sell material to other club members, they can request to post it here for other club members to evaluate if they really need it for their collection / needs..

Contact the ROCK TALK Editor for advertising space!!