



# Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



## ROCK TALK

## MAR 2026

**24 MARCH 2026 at 1900 (7:00 PM)**

Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

(next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)

North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

### MARCH PROGRAM

#### **Rock and Mineral ID.**

Diane will be cogitating the content while sailing in the western Caribbean, but the gist will be two (2)-fold: big picture looking at the landscape (granite, limestone, and sedimentary) and close-up intro to identifying the most common minerals (calcite and quartz family). I want to answer two (2) questions: What am I seeing as I drive around? and I picked up a cool rock; what is it?

#### **Future Field Trips**

Dave will start with advertising three (3) field trips for this calendar year. **28 March 2026, CHESTNUT RIDGE, BATH County, VA for QUARTZ CRYSTALS.** If you are interested in climbing the ridge for quartz crystals, please contact Dave with your intentions. If so, begin doing some exercises to prepare for a thousand foot plus climb to the crystal collecting area. To read members prior experiences at Chestnut Ridge, please visit SMRMC.ORG under FIELD TRIPS for their experiences.

Next will be the annual **Petrified**

**Wood collecting in ODESSA, DE on 18 APRIL**

**2026.** This trip is an invite from the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club. This is a very easy collecting day on an untilled farm. Great chance for kids to make some finds. Seen an arrowhead found here.

Chestnut Ridge and Odessa trips have been announced via email. **REMEMBER – one must be a member in good status – DUES PAID – to attend these events.**

Dave is also working on a trip to the **National Limestone Quarry in the June** timeframe. He will discuss the possibilities of this trip more at our March meeting.

Remember with Maryland “still” in the WINTER MODE, (remember what Punxsutawney Phil said) extreme low tides still have a possibility in the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. So be ready for that Dave Email warning about winds out of the North that magically make low tides even lower that could give a chance to find fossils and shark teeth. Enjoy the search!

### SMRMC MINUTES

No meetings were held in January nor February 2026, so no meeting minutes. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, 24 March 2026 at 7PM (1900) at the Old Waldorf School.

### **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.**

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**REMINDER** – To ensure your membership is up to date, PLEASE download the membership form from the SMRMC website and follow the renewing requirements!! Up to date dues allows members to attend the field trips due to insurance requirements.

Greta will be ready for those that have not paid their dues at the March meeting.

### **Newsletter Update**

Yes, I broke down and purchased a Windows 11 Laptop to move into this decade, and I have purchased a copy of OFFICE 2024 to better accomplish my duties as Editor-in-Chief of the ROCK TALK Newsletter.



<b>IN THE MARCH 2026 ROCK TALK:</b>	
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**2026 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>
24 MAR 2026	Rock and Mineral ID by Diane	Paul and Linda
28 APR 2026	Quarry Safety by Rich	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**

**CHAMBERSBURG, PA, MARCH 21-22, 2026**

46<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem-Mineral & Jewelry Show. Eugene C. Clarke Jr. Community Center, 235 South Third Street, Chambersburg, PA. Exit 16 off I-81, West on RT 30, Left at Third Street. SAT 100 – 1700, SUN 1000 – 1600. Admission \$6.00 and Children under 12 FREE with Adult. Jewelry, Gemstones, Minerals, Fossils, Displays and Door Prizes. Mention this AD and get \$1.00 off Admission.

**GAITHERSBURG, MD - MAR 21-22, 2026.**

60<sup>th</sup> Annual Gems, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show. 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>

**WEST FRIENDSHIP, MD APRIL 4, 2026 -**

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show, Saturday, April 4, 2026 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, Activities for Kids, [www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org](http://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- the Fairgrounds road is a half of a mile on the right. The Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization whose members share an interest in gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary and

**MIDLAND PARK, NJ APRIL 11 & 12, 2026 - -**

36<sup>th</sup> Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect St, Midland Park, NJ 07432; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4 Food truck on site, door prizes, show is inside so rain or shine.

**NORTH HAVEN CT APRIL 11-12, 2026 - -**

New Haven Mineral Club 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Show Gems Minerals and Fossils, Clarion Inn 201 Washington Avenue North Haven CT 06473 Saturday 9:30AM – 5PM Sunday 10AM – 4:30PM Admission 6.00 Children under 12 FREE Info: [newhavenmineralclub.org](http://newhavenmineralclub.org)

**TOPSFIELD, MA: MAY 2-3, 2026 - 2026--**

Annual show; North Shore Rock & Mineral Club; Topsfield Fairgrounds, 207 Boston Road, Rt. 1; Sat May 2nd 9-5, Sun. 10-4; General admission \$7; \$6 with copy of ad/coupon; Children under 12 free; free parking; contact Joe Weisberg, (781) 861-6653; Email: [northshorerockandmineral@gmail.com](mailto:northshorerockandmineral@gmail.com); Website: [www.northshorerock.org](http://www.northshorerock.org)

**LEESPORT, PA MAY 2-3, 2026. 57<sup>th</sup>**

ANNUAL World of Gems & Minerals. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, 312 Germant's Church Road, Leesport, PA. 19533. SAT 1000 – 1700, SUN 1000 – 1600. For more info, visit [www.berksmineralsociety.com](http://www.berksmineralsociety.com)

**AMELIA DAY FESTIVAL MAY 9, 2026**

9:30 - 4:30 - Moorefield Mine will be vending!

<https://www.ameliadayfestival.org/>

**LITTLE SWITZERLAND, NC MAY 11-17, 2026**

-: EFMLS Wildacres Workshop – Spring Session at Little Switzerland, NC. For information about the workshops and registration, visit [www.efmls.org/wildacres](http://www.efmls.org/wildacres).

**FRANKLIN NC GEM AND MINERAL SHOW - MAY 15-17, 2026**, Watauga Festival Center

<https://www.glwshows.com/franklin-nc-gem-show>

**MAYS LANDING, NJ MAY 16-17, 2026 - -**

Cape Atlantic Rockhounds. May 16-17 from 10-4. The show location: 3210 US Rt. 50, Mays Landing, NJ (Atlantic County 4-H Fairgrounds.)

July 11-12, 2026 - Syracuse, NY: Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse - 59th annual wholesale and retail gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry show. Location: NY State Fairgrounds, Center of Progress Building; 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse, NY 13209. Sat. 10 - 6 and Sun. 10 - 4. Admission: \$8, children under 12 free when accompanied by a paying adult. The show features lapidary and jewelry making demonstrations, hourly raffle drawings, 25 cent straw draw, earth science lectures, rocks, minerals and fossils from around the world, and a youth area with lots of activities for children including a sluice, soapstone carving, and jewelry making for kids. Family fun for everyone. For more information look on our website: [www.gmss.club](http://www.gmss.club); Facebook: [www.facebook.com/gemandmineralsyr](https://www.facebook.com/gemandmineralsyr) or [gmssrocks@gmail.com](mailto:gmssrocks@gmail.com) (Show Chair).

**SALEM GEM & MINERAL SHOW, MAY 23 & 24, 2026**

<https://americangemshow.com/>

**LYNCHBURG GEM & MINERAL SHOW, - JUNE 26-27, 2026****ESSEX JUNCTION, VT JULY 18-19, 2026 - -**

Burlington Gem and Mineral Club, 45th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452. Dealers, exhibits, demonstrations, raffle, silent auctions, door prizes, mineral and fossil identification table, and children's activities. Sat. & Sun., 10 am-5 pm. \$5 adults (16-59), \$3 seniors (60+), children under 16 free with paying adult. Refreshments available. Free parking. Handicapped accessible. Info: Felicia Edwards at [vtbgmc@gmail.com](mailto:vtbgmc@gmail.com) or <http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html>

**POUGHKEEPSIE, NY SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026 - -**

Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show & Sale! Gold's Gym - 258 Titusville Road Poughkeepsie, New York September 19 & 20, 2026 Sat. 10:00 - 5:00 / Sun. 10:00 - 4:00 SHOW THEME: "GEMS & MINERALS have CLASSification" 30 DEALERS – Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Beads, Gems! 6 Free Rocks for Kids at "Glitter Mountain" ! SLUICE at "Garnet Gulch" for Treasure ! FLUORESCENT MINERAL Display ! Earth Science SCAVENGER HUNT for MHV Students ! LAPIDARY DEMONSTRATIONS ! Displays of GEMS & MINERALS by VASSAR GEOLOGY MUSEUM and MHV Members WHOLESale DEALER

**WALDORF, MD 3 OCTOBER 2026 - Show and Sale.** Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club. Southern Maryland Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Show. 3074 Crain Highway (RT 301) Old Waldorf School, (next to the Jaycees Hall) Waldorf, MD. 9AM to 4PM. Adults, \$3; Children 12 and under FREE with Adult. Visit [SMRMC.ORG](http://SMRMC.ORG) for a \$1 Off Coupon. Door Prizes. Over 45 tables of Rocks, Crystals, Fossils, Handcrafted Jewelry, Lapidary, Minerals, Displays and a Fluorescent Tent. Questions: Contact Kenny Jameson through the Website: [WWW.SMRMC.ORG](http://WWW.SMRMC.ORG).

**EAST ROCHESTER, NY OCT. 24-25, 2026 --** Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry-Fossil Show and Sale at Total Sports Experience, 435 West Commercial Street, East Rochester, NY. Event times: 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 5 PM on Sunday. For more information, visit Rochester Lapidary Society.

### NEWS STORIES WITH POSSIBLE INTEREST

**'Tiny' dinosaur, big impact: A 90-million-year-old fossil rewrites history**

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-tiny-dinosaur-big-impact-million.html>

**What is Lab-grown gold: How is it made and why it matters**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/fashion/jewellery/what-is-lab-grown-gold-how-is-it-made-and-why-it-matters/photostory/128748618.cms>

**Megalodons Went Extinct Millions of Years Ago. The Prehistoric Predator Could Become Maryland's Official State Shark**  
<https://apple.news/A1RwzGhfWTRe9enYr8WJAU>

**Dinosaur National Monument Construction Work Turns Up New Fossils, Leading to the First Excavation at One Site in More Than a Century**  
[https://apple.news/AQE5wzUMLQX6di3G7HLC\\_yg](https://apple.news/AQE5wzUMLQX6di3G7HLC_yg)

**Giant structure discovered deep beneath Bermuda is unlike anything else on Earth**  
[https://apple.news/AdLxh3IAMQli1dhz\\_CoW45w](https://apple.news/AdLxh3IAMQli1dhz_CoW45w)

**Scientists Create Powerful New Form of Aluminum That Could Replace Rare Earth Metals**  
<https://scitechdaily.com/scientists-create-powerful-new-form-of-aluminum-that-could-replace-rare-earth-metals/>

**Spinosaurus mirabilis new species discovered by professor and team in Niger**  
<https://www.foxnews.com/travel/new-hell-heer-spinosaurus-species-found-remote-sahara-70-years-fossil-clue>

**Geologists Stumbled Upon the Largest Gold Mine in the World**  
<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a70547429/china-supergiant-gold-mine-world/>

**Largest-ever marine reptile discovered by an 11-year-old girl**

<https://www.earth.com/news/largest-known-marine-reptile-ichthyotitan-severnensis-discovered-by-11-year-old-girl/>

**Luminescence dating confirms Roman-era gold mines in the Eastern Pyrenees**

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-luminescence-dating-roman-era-gold.html>

**Lithium trove worth over \$1.5 trillion is found in a US volcano basin**

<https://www.earth.com/news/lithium-trove-worth-1-trillion-dollars-found-under-us-volcano-basin/>

**Giant Tyrannosaurus Discovered in North America Is The Largest of Its Era**

<https://www.sciencealert.com/giant-tyrannosaurus-discovered-in-north-america-is-the-largest-of-its-era>

**This 2-pound dinosaur is rewriting what scientists know about evolution**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/03/260309225231.htm>

**Scientists may have discovered a brand-new mineral on Mars**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/03/260309225228.htm>

**Scientists May Have Just Proven Earth's Real Age Thanks to Zircon Crystals, and It's Far Older Than We Imagined!**

<https://indiandefencereview.com/scientists-may-have-proven-earths-real-age/>

**Scientists Uncover a 68-Million-Year-Old Dinosaur Egg Inside Another Egg**

<https://dailygalaxy.com/2026/03/scientists-uncover-68-million-dinosaur-egg-inside-another-egg/>

**Scientists Discover 23 Million-Year-Old Arctic Rhino, Unveiling a Lost Era of Prehistoric Life**

<https://indiandefencereview.com/23-million-year-old-arctic-rhino/>

**T. rex took 40 years to reach full size, study finds**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/03/260304184226.htm>

**How a China-funded survey uncovered \$3B in new mineral deposits in Liberia**

<https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/how-a-china-funded-survey-uncovered-dollar3b-in-new-mineral-deposits-in-liberia/426xtxv>

**Rare Baby Dinosaur Fossil Found in Canada, It's a Game-Changer for Paleontology**

<https://indiandefencereview.com/rare-baby-dinosaur-fossil-found-in-canada/>

**The Strait of Gibraltar is disappearing due to tectonic movements**

<https://www.earth.com/news/tectonic-plate-movements-in-gibraltar-arc-strait-slowly-disappearing/>

**Teeth smaller than a fingertip reveal the first primate ancestor**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/03/260303050619.htm>

**Photographer finds thousands of Triassic dinosaur prints on sheer mountain cliffs**

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/photographer-finds-thousands-of-triassic-dinosaur-prints-on-sheer-mountain/>

**How an ancient seafloor turned Arkansas into 'Sharkansas,' a shark fossil hotspot**

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-ancient-seafloor-arkansas-sharkansas-shark.html>

**Paleontologists Unearth New Species of Titanosaur in Argentina**

<https://www.sci.news/paleontology/yenen-houssayi-14510.html>

**Workers Unearthed a Monstrous 3-Meter-Long Creature Under a Construction Site**

<https://dailygalaxy.com/2026/03/3-meter-long-creature-construction-site/>

**Mineral Cleaning for Amateurs** John's website is full of information that all mineral collectors will find useful and interesting. <http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/> [Rock collecting guide for geology beginners](https://www.basementguides.com/rock-collecting-and-geology-basics/)

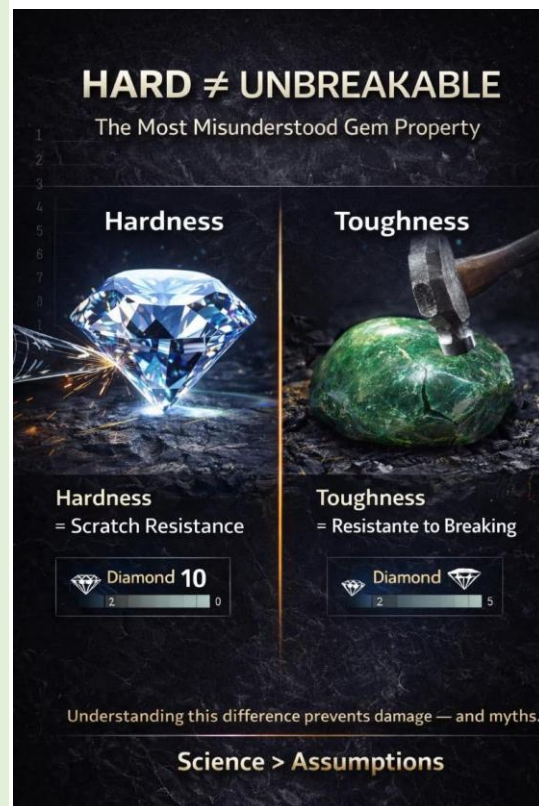
**Facebook Link for the Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/432839874271992/?ref=share>

**Mineral Collecting in Virginia**

<https://www.energy.virginia.gov/geology/documents/Brochures/MINERALCOLLECTING.pdf>

<https://www.energy.virginia.gov/geology/geologymineralresources.shtml>



### EFMLS Wildacres Scholarship

It is with great pleasure to announce that the EFMLS Board has just voted for a Carolyn Weinberger Memorial Wildacres Scholarship to be awarded to one individual for the upcoming EFMLS Wildacres Workshop held in May 11-17, 2026.

This scholarship was made possible due to previous donations to that fund. This scholarship will cover one individual's tuition for classes and room-and-board, which for 2026 is set at \$525. It will not cover any additional class material fees, transportation, hotel, or other travel expenses.

All clubs within the Eastern Federation can submit one participant's name, a club member, who preferably has never attended Wildacres before. It is up to the clubs how they select that individual. All names will be put in a hat, and the Wildacres Committee staff will draw one lucky participant.

Registration for the May 2026 EFMLS Wildacres Workshop session opens on January 1, 2026. Should the participant awarded this scholarship already have sent in the application, their deposit will be refunded.

Going forward in the future, we would like to keep the Carolyn Weinberger Memorial Wildacres Scholarship alive, and we'll be asking for contributions during the upcoming years. Whenever we reach another full scholarship amount (be it in one year or five) we will award again another full scholarship.

We look forward to receiving your nominations. Please submit them to me via email at [helen@gemartcenter.com](mailto:helen@gemartcenter.com) no later than March 10, 2026. I will bring them to the rest of the Wildacres Committee staff for the drawing by March 15, 2026.

Best Regards,  
Helen Serras-Herman, EFMLS Wildacres Committee Chairman




# Morefield Updates

From Sam & Sharon Dunaway  
(as shared by Mary & Bob McIntire)



SPECIMEN SALE	NEW BOOK	UPCOMING DATE
They will be selling Amazonite, etc., on Mother's Day weekend <a href="https://www.ameladailyfestival.org/">https://www.ameladailyfestival.org/</a>	"Marooned- in Search of Gold" Sam & Sharon's new book will be available on Amazon & Barnes & Noble Bookstore	At a TBA date, they will be presenting a program at the VA Dept of Mines, Minerals and Energy



## 60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: March 21-22, 2026 Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-4  
Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Building #6  
14 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877

Evening:	Daytime:
Hourly Door Prizes	20+ Vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems & jewelry
Fluorescent Minerals	40+ Exhibits by club members - including junior exhibits
Raffle Prizes	Mini Mine, Free minerals & activities for children
Free Parking	Demonstrations of Faceting, Beading, Jewelry Making, Physics

Children (11 and under) Free! Ages 12 and over \$1  
Seniors in US (65+) Free! All youth with AGI identification Free!  
More info at [www.gsmo.com](http://www.gsmo.com)

Show this flyer for \$1 off admission price (subject to each vendor's own policy)



FROM DC, VA, NOT TO SCALE

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**GEOLOGICAL TIME PERIODS – REPRINT FROM SEPT 2021**

By Rich Simcsak

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

This month we have the periods of Geological time to find.

ARCHEAN

CAMBRIAN

CENOZOIC

DEVONIAN

EOCENE

HOLOCENE

JURASSIC

MESOZOIC

MIOCENE

MISSISSIPIAN

OLIGOCENE

ORDOVICIAN

PALEOCENE

PALEOZOIC

PENNSYLVANIAN

PERMIAN

PLEISTOCENE

PLIOCENE

SILURIAN

TRIASSIC



**The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club**

**Meetings take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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!!