

Field Trip Report  
Martin Limestone Quarry,  
Denver, PA

On Saturday, October 19, Mary C., Tim F., Jim W. and Ralph G., Figure 1 of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club joined 18 members from the Gem, Mineral, and Lapidary Society of Montgomery County (Maryland) and the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association (Allentown, Pennsylvania) to collect at the Martin Limestone Quarry, Figure 2, in Denver, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.



Figure 1. Mary, Jim and Tim

Figure 2. Martin Limestone Quarry

At 9 AM, Johnathan from the Quarry gave us a safety briefing, reminding us that we are there at our risk and our responsibility for any injury. He also reminded us to stay away from the high walls of the quarry, especially seeing that they are fractured. Johnathan from the Montgomery County club also stressed safety while in the quarry.

We were led to the lowest level, Figure 3, where new blast material was available to collect. We found some fluorite with small crystals. Ralph opened a vug containing what looked like micro quartz coated with red hematite. Ralph cracked open another rock and found small calcite crystals, the largest being about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. We also found micro pyrite.



Figure 3. New blast material.

At about 11:00, Johnathan from the Quarry took us to another section of the quarry where he pointed to fluorite and dolomite on the quarry wall. The rock piles near the wall contained the fluorite and dolomite and we gathered samples. The fluorite was small and the dolomite massive. A woman from the Montgomery County Club found small but well-formed cubes of fluorite in a boulder. Her son found a quartz crystal. Ralph found a ¼ inch fluorite crystal.

As 1 PM approached, Johnathan from the Montgomery County Club announced it was time to leave. We packed up our finds, expressed our thanks to the two Johnathans and headed home.

We were disappointed in our finds. The fluorites were small and the dolomite was massive, not crystalline. It was still fun collecting in Denver.