Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

ROCK TALK MAY 2026

28 MAY 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

MAY PROGRAM

Rock Identification with Diane

The room set-up will be different for this meeting. Instead of a block of chairs, we will have 4 tables with chairs around them, and we will set out the activities ahead of time so they will be ready to go after break. I will have self-checking sets at each table covering Mohs hardness, crystal systems, habits, streak, calcite/quartz families, longwave UV, and various combo specimens for practice.

I would like members to bring a few specimens to share, either to get them identified or give us practice identifying minerals "in the wild". Stumpers are welcome. Please have each one in a small box or container. Include a label placed upside down under the specimen so we can check ourselves as we study the specimens. Include your name as well, please, especially if you're looking for ID.

Promises to be a highly interactive night!!

SMRMC MINUTES

SMRMC Meeting Minutes – 4/28/2026

Minutes of Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club meeting on April 28th, 2026.

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Smith at approximately 7:00 PM.

GUESTS –- 3 guests in total, one of which was Bonnie Hepburn from the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society in Anchorage, Alaska. Bonnie was in Maryland visiting family, so she decided to attend our SMRMC meeting while in town. Bonnie is the Field Trips officer at Chugach. She advised she can be reached at Bonnie.Hepburn@gmail.com or 907-980-1491. More information about the Chugach club can be found on their website: https://www.cgmsak.org.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING --- Approved. Club Secretary Teresa Jones was absent, so Amanda Godek volunteered to take the meeting minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT –-- Greta reported that we are current. Greta also said that applications are being taken for the SMRMC Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Show, which will take place on October 3rd. Tables are $30 each for SMRMC members and $40 each for non-members until the June 30th cut-off date.

MEMBERSHIP --- Chair Carole Raucheisen reported that club membership is 115 total (103 adults and 12 youths).

FACEBOOK --- Kurt Knower reported 1,097 Facebook members.

PROGRAM REPORT --- Diane Etherton described doing mineral testing at next month's program. She advised everyone to bring in a "stumper", or something that you don't know what it is, and we will identify it. She advised that we need 2 programs for the summer and 1 for the fall. She also said rockhounding trip stories are needed. She discussed that we need more programs for this year, and it was also discussed that Dr. Godfrey would be contacted for a possible program.

FIELD TRIP REPORT --- Chair Dave Lines

Recent past field trips

March 28 --- All day trip to Chestnut Ridge in Bath County, VA for quartz crystals. Six (6) SMRMC members participated.

April 18 --- Joint Field Trip with Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club (host) --- Petrified wood in Odessa, DE. Seven (7) SMRMC members attended.

April 17, 18, and 19 --- Graves Mountain Spring Rock Swap and Dig in Lincolnton, Georgia. This was a Go-on-your-own trip --- one (1) SMRMC member said he planned to attend --- another was a "maybe".

Upcoming field trips

May 9 (FYI item) --- The Morefield Mine (closed location) will be a vendor all day from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at the "Amelia Day Festival" in downtown Amelia, VA. Possibility of buying some Morefield Mine specimens.

May 15, 16, and 17 --- Flint Knapping and other Ancient Technology in Calvert County at Jefferson Patterson Park, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD 20685. Starts at 1:30 pm on Friday and lasts all weekend through 1:30 pm on Sunday. Free. Camping available by contacting Nate Salzman at nathaniel.salzman@maryland.gov. Fun events for all ages and skill levels –- beginning to expert flint knapping, stone tools, full size Native American village to explore, basket making, dyeing, pit cooking, archery shoot, keynote speaker.

May 16 --- US Silica Mine, Montepelier, VA from 7:30 am to noon. Gray flash moonstone (andesine), bronzeite (enstatite), ilmenite, rutile, blue quartz, almandine garnets in biotite schist. Trip announcement emailed April 10th --- Strict 12-person limit per Quarry Supervisor. Sign-up at tonight's meeting --- if more than 12 people sign up, we will have a drawing to decide who can go --– and the extras will go on a "waiting list". If less than 12 people sign up at the April Meeting, we will then allow additional sign-ups by email on a first-to-sign-up basis.

June 6 --- National Limestone quarries at both Middleburg and Mount Pleasant Mills. PA. All day trip (9:15 am to 3:30 pm) to

collect calcite (xls and massive), purple fluorite (massive only), strontianite xls, celestite xls, travertine (cave flowstone), wavellite xls, and fossil snails. No limit on number of members who can attend. Full safety protective clothing is required for all participants. Trip announcement will be emailed soon.

NEWSLETTER --– Rich advised that last week's trip report was dedicated to the Chestnut Ridge trip, where quartz was collected. There will be a trip report for the Odessa Delaware field trip available the first week of May. There is a Lynchburg show coming up, and more information will be included in the next newsletter.

WEBSITE --- No recent updates from Webmaster Bob Davidson.

OLD BUSINESS ---

Kurt Knower said a volunteer is needed to coordinate the August Auction. Responsibilities include coordination, setup, and financial tracking. Three volunteers are needed for the auction (2 auctioneers and 1 for coordination/financial paperwork). Ralph and Rich volunteered to be the auctioneers. At least one volunteer is needed to do the paperwork portion. Kurt advised that the volunteer can use an Excel spreadsheet, as this was used in the past. The auction will be held on August 25th from 6PM – 9PM. This will take the place of the regular August meeting.

Kenny Jameson passed out flyers for the upcoming SMRMC Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Kenny advised that vendor applications have been emailed to last year's vendors. The vendor applications were also distributed to members at the meeting. The application forms can be filled out and sent to Greta once completed, and the forms should be submitted by June 30th. The show will take place on October 3rd at the Old Waldorf School from 9AM – 4PM.

Kenny also discussed some upcoming shows. Port Tobacco Market Day will be held in early May, and MarylandFest will take place on May 2nd.

NEW BUSINESS ---

Dave Lines discussed how Wade Elementary School wants our club to help with their STEAM Night on May 7th. They will have a hands-on table and sandboxes for the children to dig, find, and keep. The event will take place from 5PM – 6:30PM, with setup starting at 4PM. Dave let the group know that an email will be sent out about this event as well. If anyone would like to donate to the STEAM Night, the items may need to be approved by the school science teacher in advance.

DECISIONS

Carole Raucheisen requested to buy a bin with dividers to better organize the name tags. The bin would be about $40 to purchase. Motion made to approve the bin purchase.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Polly is in the hospital, and doing better now. She may go into rehab the last week of April.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Dave Lines provided 25 door prizes. Thank you!

Snacks provided by Ralph G. Thank you!

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 with any assistance you desire to extend!

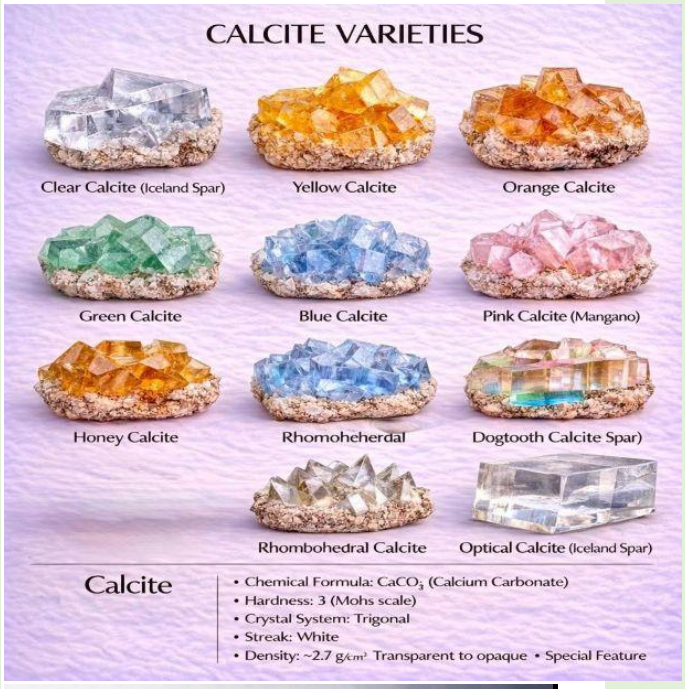
For Best information on forecasted Tide Levels from Dave Lines

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 each meeting.



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2026 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
26 MAY 2026	Hands-on-Lab by Diane	Kurt and Sue
23 JUN 2026	TBA	Amanda G.
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

SALEM GEM & MINERAL SHOW, MAY 23 & 24, 2026
https://americangemshow.com/

MONROE, NY JUNE 6-7, 2026 - - Orange County Mineral Society, New York, Orange Cunty Mineral Show, NY June 6: 10am to 5PM & June 7: 10AM to 4PM, Museum Village, 1010 Rt 17M, Monroe, NY 10950

SYRACUSE, NY: JULY 11-12, 2026 -: 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; Facebook: www.facebook.com/gemandmineralsyr or gmssrocks@gmail.com (Show Chair).

PITTSBURGH, PA JULY 25-26, 2026 - -The 2026 Monongahela Rockhounds Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, July 25 and 26, 2026, West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co., #4 Skyview Hall, 660 Noble Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15122. Free admission. http://www.monongahelarockhounds.org for information

LYNCHBURG, VA JUNE 26-27, 2026 - Lynchburg Gem & Mineral Show**,-** Flyer on Page XX**.**

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 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 and 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

FRANKLIN, NJ SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026 - - Saturday, September 19 (9 to 5) and Sunday September 20 (10-5) at the

Franklin, New Jersey Firehouse (137 Buckwheat Road, Franklin, New Jersey). This is both an indoor and outdoor show. Dealer fees for outside are $50 for a 15 by 20-foot space with indoor dealers' fees dependent on size of booth. (e.g., $500 for a small booth and $600 for a large booth) Contact the Franklin Mineral Museum for more details. Public Admission is $7

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 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.

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.

WEST CHESTER, PA NOVEMBER 14, 2026 - - EFMLS Convention in conjunction with FM-PA Annual Symposium, Saturday, November 14, 2026, with a field trip the following day. Registration will begin September 1, 2026 and will be on FMPA's website.

NEWS STORIES WITH POSSIBLE INTEREST

70-Million-Year-Old Fossil Discovery in Morocco Points To Lost Dinosaur Highways Across Oceans
https://indiandefencereview.com/70-m-year-fossil-morocco-dinosaur-highways/

First 'technicolor' dinosaur fossil has four wings but it could not fly
https://www.earth.com/news/first-technicolor-dinosaur-fossil-anchiornis-huxleyi-feathers-four-wings-could-not-fly/

Why did Clovis toolmakers choose difficult quartz crystal?
https://phys.org/news/2026-04-clovis-toolmakers-difficult-quartz-crystal.html

Chinese scientists discover new mineral from lunar meteorite
https://news.cgtn.com/news/2026-04-23/Chinese-scientists-discover-new-mineral-from-lunar-meteorite-1MzkgfX9O2Q/p.html

Germany discovers a treasure trove beneath an old gas field: 43 million tons of lithium have been found beneath the Altmark region, bringing Europe closer to the great battery revolution
https://www.ecoticias.com/en/germany-discovers-a-treasure-trove-beneath-an-old-gas-field-43-million-tons-of-lithium-have-been-found-beneath-the-altmark-region-bringing-europe-closer-to-the-great-battery-revolution/31164/

The 'Boot of Cortez' Returns to Auction After Nearly Two Decades

https://robbreport.com/partners/ejs-auction-boot-of-cortez-returns-two-decades-1238041872/

Scientists have found 6,000 cubic kilometers of magma beneath Tuscany, a Yellowstone-scale reservoir hidden under one of Europe's calmest-looking landscapes
https://www.ecoticias.com/en/scientists-have-found-6000-cubic-kilometers-of-magma-beneath-tuscany-a-yellowstone-scale-reservoir-hidden-under-one-of-europes-calmest-looking-landscapes/32066/

Giant Tyrannosaur Fossil Found in New Mexico
https://www.sci.news/paleontology/hunter-wash-tyrannosaur-14772.html

Ocean Dream' blue-green diamond sells for more than $17 million at Christie's auction in Geneva
https://apple.news/AkfCw5xJoQCSWhPj28ySS2w

The Longest Caves in the World
https://www.worldatlas.com/caves/the-longest-caves-in-the-world-54486.html

What looked like a wall full of grooves in the Adriatic Sea turned out to be the trail of hundreds of terrified turtles 79 million years ago
https://www.ecoticias.com/en/what-looked-like-a-wall-full-of-grooves-in-the-adriatic-sea-turned-out-to-be-the-trail-of-hundreds-of-terrified-turtles-79-million-years-ago/32008/

Sahara Fossil Find: 95M-Year-Old 'Hell Heron' Discovered dragon
https://www.indulgexpress.com/msociety/2026/May/06/from-legend-to-reality-dragon-like-fossil-found-in-sahara-desert

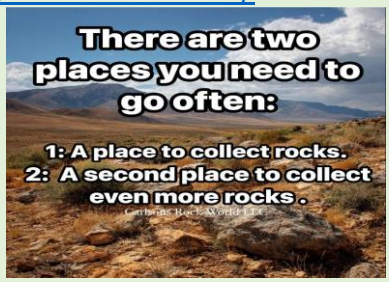
A 160-million-year-old 'technicolour' dinosaur fossil discovered in China with four wings and bird-like feathers
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/science/a-160-million-year-old-technicolour-dinosaur-fossil-discovered-in-china-with-four-wings-and-bird-like-feathers/articleshow/131037378.cms

South Africa's 158-year-old diamond mine is looking for new buyers to save it from extinction
https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/south-africas-158-year-old-diamond-mine-is-looking-for-new-buyers-to-save-it-from/nrzhpxt

Pennsylvania woman finds 3.09-carat white diamond at state park in Arkansas
https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/white-diamond-crater-of-diamonds-state-park/

Giant new dinosaur identified from remains found in Thailand
https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx21pk5g20ro

Rare, 26-Pound Gold Nugget Hits Auction Block on June 12
https://bootofcortez.com/



Odessa Delaware Petrified Wood Trip April 18, 2026 by Dave Lines

Twice a year in early Spring and late Fall, we are generously invited to join the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club to search for petrified cypress wood (of the genus cupressinoxylon) in a farm field near Odessa, Delaware. This petrified wood's origin is a bit controversial --- according to A.I., it is 1.5 to 2.0 million years old. But -- some say it older – and originated in the Miocene (23 to 5 million years ago [MYA]), eroded out, and was redeposited in the Pleistocene (2.58 MYA). Others say it was from the Paleocene (66 to 56 MYA) and was later redeposited in the Pleistocene (2.58 MYA). Thus, the age remains in question --- but the redeposition theory seems to be the consensus. While some of the wood has sharp edges, other specimens are rounded off with smooth edges –-- which shows that the petrified wood had been moved (or tumbled).

According to an article referenced in the link http://viewsofthemahantango.blogspot.com/2011/08/petrified-wood-from-delaware.html, the extent of the petrified wood in Delaware covers an area from Odessa in New Castle County south to New Smyrna in Kent County. Google says there is no map which shows the approximate boundaries of the deposit, although general agreement indicates it is found in local gravel pits, farm fields, and stream banks over a 2-to-3-mile area. Due to a moderate degree of residential development, there are very few places where the soil is exposed –-- and thus limited locations to find this petrified wood.

Our group from SMRMC was small --- only seven (7) people (Rich, Kathryn, Kathryn's mom, John W., Dave, and Tim and Lorna Smith and their daughter Francesca. And keep in mind that there were dozens of other people from other clubs also searching for wood. The main location for the Field Trip was a large farm field (over a mile square) that had significant cover --- several inches of last Fall's corn crop residue (chopped-up stalks and cobs) combined with winter weeds which had been partly killed by a herbicide in preparation for no-till planting of a new crop (probably soybeans) virtually completely covered the ground.

Dave's Finds

Since the petrified wood could only be seen on bare ground (which was in very short supply), the only way to locate bare

ground was to walk around and look. I eventually figured out that the heaviest weed cover on the "left side" of the farm fields was where to look because it had almost no corn crop residue and had at least some bare ground because those areas were low spots where the corn failed (drowned) and the taller (2 – 3 feet) weeds thrived. Using this technique, I found about 10 – 15 small pieces of wood ranging from an inch to three (3) inches long. I also logged over three (3) miles (according to my cell phone app) walking around searching for specimens. The only other person in our group to find any wood was Kathryn --- who probably found the "find-of-the-day" with a nice fist sized specimen. No one else in our group found any wood at all. ☹

But not to worry, because all was not lost. Three of us had met two (2) hours earlier that morning at 8:00 am and searched for wood in another separate location. We all left that location with several good specimens. Around 1:00 pm, John W. went home, and Rich and I tried to persuade the others to join us on a trip to the C&D Canal spoils area – but we had no takers since they all had other plans and left. Rich and I then decided to check out another very small area for petrified wood. Both of us had our best luck at that location.

"A MD rock for a MI lady"
by Dave Lines

A little over a year ago, our webmaster, Bob forwarded an email request from Michigan. The email read as follows:

"Hello! Our daughter is graduating with a PhD in geology (planetary sciences) this summer, and we are trying to give her a rock from each state as one of her graduation gifts. We have almost 40 rocks, each about 1.5 inches to 2 inches by 1.5 inches to 2 inches. We are not going to make it to Maryland before her graduation, although it looks so beautiful.

Would you please help us with this project? I am happy to pay for a rock + shipping. We are looking for a cool rock/state rock, and we know you are the place to help! Thank you so much for considering this!

Kelly Ettenborough"

I replied: "Hello – Dave Lines here of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club. Thank you for contacting us --- I will gladly help you. I will (flat rate) mail a tumble polished specimen of our official Maryland State Gemstone named "Patuxent River Stone" – you can look up the detailed description on Google.

No need to repay me, although a piece of your Michigan State gemstone (Chlorastrolite) would be most appreciated (I already have some Petosky stones). Good luck with your project --- which is quite a nice idea and a fun project for you.

Congratulations to your daughter for earning her PhD. Best, Dave Lines, Field Trip Chairman, Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club."

Note: The tumble polished specimen was polished by our very own Kenny Jameson (because I wanted it to be the very best). I also included a copy of an article about "Patuxent River Stone" that I had written about 5 years ago. Kelly received the stone near the end of March 2025 and said she would send me a Chlorastrolite specimen. Time passed and I forgot about it.

But lo and behold, earlier this month, a small package arrived in the mail mark "Fragile". It was heavy and it rattled when shaken. Not a good sign. Opening it, the contents included some wadded-up paper, a heavy brown 3-inch rock, and a bunch of very small green rocks mingled with broken pieces of what had been a small glass bottle. An email also came from Kelly saying that the green rocks were Chlorastrolite –- and the large brown rock was a piece of conglomerate (which upon closer examination contained yellow and red pieces of other rock.

Google says: "Chlorastrolite, commonly known as Isle Royale Greenstone, is the official state gem of Michigan, designated in 1973. A variety of pumpellyite, it is renowned for its dark green color with a stellar, radiated, or "turtleback" pattern, typically found as small, rounded pebbles in basaltic rocks on the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale.

Key Details About Michigan Chlorastrolite:

Location: Primarily found on the beaches and in the old copper mine waste rock piles (spoil piles) of the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale National Park. Collection Rules: While found on Lake Superior beaches, collecting is illegal within Isle Royale National Park.

Appearance: These stones display a chatoyant (star-like) pattern of light and dark green, sometimes with pink inclusions.

Rarity: Large pieces are very rare, with most finds being small pebbles under half an inch. Typically, only found as small, rounded pebbles after the basalt has been worn away by water.

Formation: They formed about 1.1 billion years ago in cavities of lava flows (amygdaloidal basalt).

Where to Look (And Where Not To): Keweenaw Peninsula: Known locations include beaches and old mine tailings near Calumet, Eagle Harbor, and Grant Townships.

Isle Royale: The most famous source, though collecting is strictly prohibited.

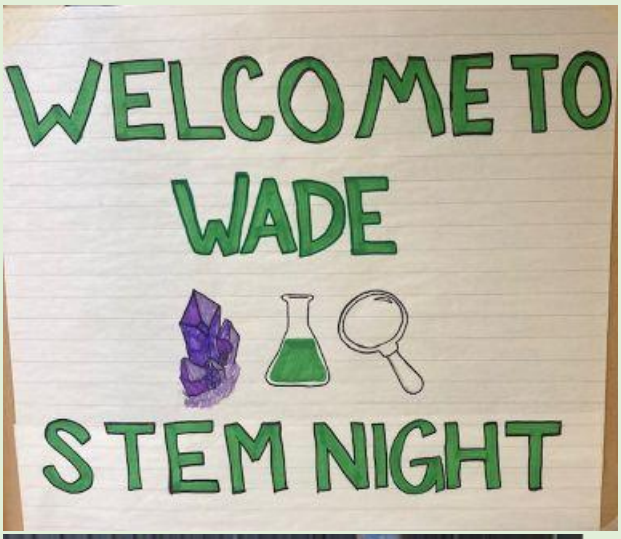
Alternatives: Look for Keweenaw Peninsula mine dumps and rocky Lake Superior beaches outside the National Park. Because they are difficult to identify in the field without polishing, they are often identified by their rounded, green-

patterned appearance when wet. They are frequently used in jewelry by local artisans, although they are relatively soft with a Mohs hardness of 4 to 6."

Although the specimens of the Chlorastrolite that I received were very small (tiny), I will share them with the club at our April club meeting."

Grand Rapids Public Museum photo of Chlorastrolite cabochons

STEM Night at Wade Elementary School in St. Charles
by Dave Lines



An email request to our SMRMC Webmaster (Bob Davidson) from the Science teacher (Ms. Day) at Wade Elementary started it. She wanted help from our Rock Club at a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Night event planned for Thursday May 7th.

That was only 2-1/2 weeks away! I emailed some of our talented SMRMC members asking for assistance. Within a week we had a plan. After some additional emails and phone calls to coordinate the details, we (*) met at the school cafeteria and set up three (3) tables full of rocks, minerals, lapidary, and fossils. [* Diane Etherton and her grandchildren --- Alyssa (13), Bryce (11), and Carolyn (9) --- Gary Lohman, Dave and Ann Lines]. Our group had wonderful displays of very beautiful, labeled specimens.

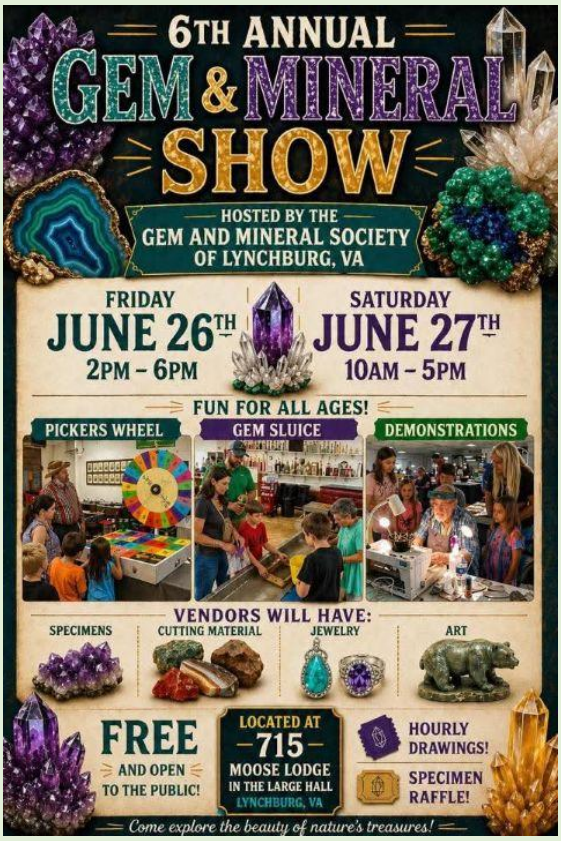
The event lasted from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Ms. Day had organized at least 20 tables of various science-related exhibits with lots of activities. Kids and their parents enthusiastically poured into the room with much excited chatter and kept us very busy. Our "hands on" rocks were a favorite. In fact, we were so occupied with showing our stuff and answering questions that I missed the chance to take more pictures.

Thank you to all our SMRMC "STEM team" members. Also, big thanks to Kenny Jameson for providing a large stack of flyers for our upcoming (Oct 3, 2026) Rock Show that we passed out to every adult that came by our tables.

The following pictures speak for themselves.

STEM Night at Wade Elementary School in St. Charles by Diane Etherton

SMRMC junior members Alyssa, Bryce, and Carolyn Crouch assisted me at Wade Elementary School's STEAM night. Our display had hands-on activities for various ages, from a rock rainbow and "match the precious jewels" to local geology and mineral families. Bryce got the most Wow's on the fluorescent minerals, but I had the best spot in the house. Seated at the table, I was at eye level with most of the students and engaged them one-to-one, asking questions and encouraging them to pick up specimens. I also identified rocks they received at another station. It was a very fun evening! I am glad we were able to participate and let the local community know about our club.



WAVELLITE VARIETIES
The Rare Beauty of Radiating Crystals
1 GREEN WAVELITE
Most common variety
Bright to deep green shades
Perfect radial (starburst) crystals
Famous from Arkansas, USA
2 YELLOW WAVELITE
Yellow to golden hues
Less common than green
Attractive sunburst appearance
Highly collectible
3 WHITE / COLORLESS WAVELITE
Transparent to milky white
Often translucent
Shows clear crystal structure
Elegant and classic look
4 BLUE-GREEN WAVELITE
Rare bluish-green color
Very rare and highly prized
Unique color variation
Sought after by collectors
5 BROWN WAVELITE
Brown to earthy shades
Caused by impurities
Less vibrant but natural and unique
Less common in collections
6 BOTRYOIDAL WAVELITE
Grape-like rounded clusters
Smooth botryoidal surface
Common growth habit
Beautiful natural form
7 RADIAL (STARBURST) WAVELITE
Radiating crystals from center
Forms star-like patterns
Most iconic wavellite appearance
Highly desirable
8 FIBROUS WAVELITE
Fine needle-like fibers
Silky, fibrous texture
Often forms radial clusters
Delicate and unique
9 WAVELITE WITH MATRIX
Wavellite attached to host rock
Enhances natural beauty
Common in collector specimens
Each piece is unique
WAVELLITE
Mineral: Wavellite
Class: Phosphate Mineral
Chemical Formula: $Al_3(PO_4)_2(OH,F)_3 5H_2O$
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES
3.5
Hardness: 3.5 – 4 (Mohs scale)
Crystal System: Orthorhombic
Streak: White
Density: ~2.3 – 2.4 g/cm³
OPTICAL PROPERTIES
Color: Green, yellow, white, blue-green, brown
Transparency: Transparent to translucent
SPECIAL FEATURES
Radial crystal growth creating stunning starburst patterns
Botryoidal (grape-like) formations are common and beautiful
MAJOR SOURCES
USA (Arkansas)
BRAZIL
UK
GERMANY

Everyone needs a friend that will call and say, "Get dressed, we are going rockhounding."
Carlsons Rock World LLC

BRANCHES OF GEOLOGY
Studying the Earth covers many areas, which is why geology has so many different fields!
CRYSTALLOGRAPHY
Arrangement of atomic structures of minerals
ECONOMIC GEOLOGY
Utilizing earth materials for economic or industrial use
ENGINEERING GEOLOGY
Applies engineering measures in solving geological problems
GEOCHEMISTRY
Principles of chemistry in studying rocks, minerals
GEOMORPHOLOGY
Evolution and formation of landforms of the earth
GEOPHYSICS
Physical processes of earth, like its magnetic field and composition
HYDROGEOLOGY
The interaction of water and geological features
MINERALOGY
Origin, properties, and uses of minerals
MINING GEOLOGY
Locating mineral resources that can be economically used
PALEONTOLOGY
Remains of plants and animals found in the rocks
PETROLOGY
Characteritistics, distribution, and origin of rocks
PLANETARY GEOLOGY
Characteristics and behaviors of solid objects in space
SEISMOLOGY
Earthquakes and behavior of seismic waves through Earth
STRATIGRAPHY
History of how sedimentary rocks are deposited
STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY
Formation of rocks that underwent various forces
VOLCANOLOGY
Properties and conditions of volcanoes
REFERENCE: The Geological Society (n.d.). Subject Areas. Geolsoc. https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Geology-Career-Pathways/What-is-Geology/Subject-Areas
ScienceKonek

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

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Webmaster
Bob Davidson

Field Trip Chairman
David Lines

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Greta G

Rock Talk Editor
Rich Simcsak

FACEBOOK Coordinator
Kurt Knower

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!!