Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

ROCK TALK JULY 2026

28 JULY 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

JULY PROGRAM

PART DUEX – Specimen Identification

Diane will have several hands-on activities again for this month's program, including a new one. "Does the specimen feel heavy?" is a common question for identifying a mineral. We'll be working together to find specific gravity or relative density of various minerals. And, yes, that means scales, beakers, water, and a little bit of math.

SMRMC MINUTES

SMRMC Meeting Minutes – 06/23/2026

Meeting was opened by Tim at 7:03. He wished Dave a very happy birthday, and we greeted his son Jeff, who flew in from Denver to surprise Dave. We also greeted Austin, who came last month as well.

MINUTES - It was moved and approved to adopt last month's meeting notes.

TREASURER - Greta reported that the table rental fee (for October's show) has been paid, the room rental fee will be paid soon, and we are financially doing good.

MEMBERSHIP - Carole reported that our current membership is 116: 102 adults and 14 juniors.

FACEBOOK - Kurt reported that our Facebook group has 1,139 followers. Tim encouraged us all to check the story he posted today on the Facebook page: a massive, unbroken petrified log being dug out in Arizona, 27 feet uncovered so far!

PROGRAMS - Programs are set for the year. Diane will do mineral identification part 2 in July; club auction is in August; Jill will tell us about Venus in September; Dr. Godfrey will present in October; Gary Loman is on for November; and December will bring the Christmas potluck and gift exchange.

We need one more snack team for September. Contact Diane at djetherton2@verizon.net to volunteer.

Thanks to Amanda for the refreshments tonight!

FIELD TRIPS - Dave gave a report on the recent and upcoming field trips. General note: Dues must be paid up to date to attend field trips (Insurance Rules). --- *General note: Dues must be paid up to date to attend field trips (Insurance Rules).*

Recent past field trips

June 6 --- National Limestone quarries at both Middleburg and Mount Pleasant Mills. PA. All day trip to collect calcite (xls and massive), purple fluorite (massive only), strontianite xls, celestite xls, travertine (cave flowstone), wavellite xls, and fossil snails. 21 signed up so far. Three (3) Richmond club attended, which included five (5) Richmond club members.

Upcoming field trips

July 11 – Two (2) locations – Part (1) Silver Spring, MD for weathered alamandine garnets (dos=decahedron) plus possible black tourmaline (schrol) xls in mica schist and also white quartz. Part (2) Point of Rocks, MD (*Potomac river access will be dependent on actual river level at the time of the trip) for blue quartz, meta basalt, jasper, possible epidote, possible native American artifacts possible, "**Possible Potomac Marble" (** will depend on our ability to gain access to certain locations). Trip announcement will be emailed soon. Sign up will be by email.

August 8 – Contrary Creek – has been **cancelled** due to the club gaining access to the Texas Quarry north of Baltimore.

August 15 -- Texas Quarry, Cockeysville, MD --- 8 to noon --- marble; pyrite; 20 plus minerals. ALSO… a "short" powerpoint brief will be shown to give folks some background on this "new" site.

September 12 – **Family Event** – This is a special invitation to the farm of SMRMC members Harry and Tina near Lancaster, PA for a picnic (they provide grilled burgers plus hot dogs, condiments, paper plates, cups and plastic ware – and we attendees – will provide cold drinks (soda and bottled water), potluck sides and desserts). This is a repeat of a similar trip several years ago to collect "devil's dice" (pseudomorphs of limonite after cubic pyrite) – plus H & T will "hide" specimens for all kids to find (this is an "easter egg style" rock hunt for our kids), We might also go to a nearby PA park to find other pseudomorphs of limonite after cubic pyrite along the lake shoreline.

September 26– (My best guess currently) - Dillwyn, VA to the Kyanite Corporation commercial mine for kyanite (Blur, Red, White XLS), pyrite, iridescent hematite, plus numerous other minerals. Full safety gear is required. This trip with the Lynchburg VA club has been rained-out for the past two (2) years due to hurricanes.

NEWSLETTER - Rich put the newsletter out early this month, so he will include field trip reports in July's newsletter. He also included information about a new book by Dr. Godfrey of the Calvert Marine Museum and a helpful safety guide for rockhounding that he found recently.

WEBSITE – Bob was not in attendance but the Website stays updated. He is still looking for someone to take over the Website management.

OLD BUSINESS -

Kenny reported that all the tables have been sold for the club show on October 3rd. That is fantastic news! Kenny will put out a sign-up list for volunteers soon, and he's working on getting more signs and banners for the show. Thanks to Greta, there are plenty of flyers available to post and hand out to let folks know about the show. We discussed coordinating refreshments for the vendors and possibly having a coffee truck in the parking lot that day. Decisions will be made in the future.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:50. Dave provided great door prizes for everyone. We admired specimens collected on the recent field trips and the Patuxent River Stone display Kenny uses for shows, and we ate snacks.

We were delighted to have Jim with us again. Jim brought a variety of geodes from Mexico and Morocco, and he cracked them open for us. We found clear and smoky quartz, amethyst, chalcedony, and calcite, plus some dark brown needles of undetermined composition. It's amazing to see such beautiful crystals revealed inside a lump of dull rock! When Rich checked the geodes with his longwave UV light, several showed areas of bright green, which is not uncommon for chalcedony from Mexico and the southwestern US. A couple geodes had large calcite crystals which glowed pink under longwave. Many thanks to Jim for bringing his equipment and presenting this fun and educational program. Pictures were posted to the club's FACEBOOK page.

For Best information on forecasted Tide Levels from Dave

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.

IN THE JULY 2026 ROCK TALK:	
TOPICS	**PAGE**
Minutes	1
Table of Contents	4
Programs / Refreshments	4
Calendar of Events / Odds and Ends	5
News Stories with Possible Interest	6
A Day in Pennsylvania at National Limestone by Dave Lines	7
Word Search	13
SMRMC Staff	14
Items Wanted/For Sale	14

2026 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
28 JUL 2026	Mineral ID with Diane	TBA
25 AUG 2026	CLUB AUCTION	TBA
22 SEP 2026	Planet Venus with Jill	TBA
27 OCT 2026	TBD with Dr. Godfrey	TBA
24 NOV 2026	Meteorites with Gary	TBA
22 DEC 2026	HOLIDAY PARTY (Date may change)	POT LUCK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ ODDS AND ENDS

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

LANCASTER, PA JULY 25-26, 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 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 FMPA 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

Boy, 11, finds 1.8 million-year-old elephant tooth on England beach
https://www.foxnews.com/travel/boy-stumbles-strange-beach-object-identified-rare-1-8m-year-old-fossil

Feds explore allowing mineral mining off Virginia's Eastern Shore
https://www.wboc.com/news/feds-explore-allowing-mineral-mining-off-virginia-s-eastern-shore/article_c93bba46-3ddb-44e7-a3ae-eac6f9f873d8.html

In 2021, a British geologist dated footprints at New Mexico's White Sands to 21,000+ years old: Pushing humans' arrival in North America back 5,000 years
https://m.economictimes.com/news/international/us/in-2021-a-british-geologist-dated-footprints-at-new-mexicos-white-sands-to-21000-years-old-pushing-humans-arrival-in-north-america-back-5000-years/articleshow/131875106.cms

Scientists Cracked Open a Mars Meteorite and Found a Big Surprise
https://www.sciencealert.com/scientists-cracked-open-a-mars-meteorite-and-found-a-big-surprise

Apple-sized rocks four kilometres below the central Pacific Ocean contain more cobalt and manganese than all known land deposits combined, and mining companies are now racing to extract them from one of the least-explored ecosystems on Earth,
https://scienceblog.com/apple-sized-rocks-four-kilometres-below-the-central-pacific-ocean-contain-more-cobalt-and-manganese-than-all-known-land-deposits-combined-and-mining-companies-are-now-racing-to-extract-them-from-one/

A Rare Meteorite Found in the Sahara Desert Offers Evidence of a Lost Protoplanet

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/a-rare-meteorite-found-in-the-sahara-desert-offers-evidence-of-a-lost-protoplanet-180988932/

Scientists accidentally discover gold can be chemically reactive by creating gold hydride, and the experiment cracks the myth that gold is always inert
https://www.ecoticias.com/en/scientists-accidentally-discover-gold-can-be-chemically-reactive-by-creating-gold-hydride-and-the-experiment-cracks-the-myth-that-gold-is-always-inert/33016/

A Day in Pennsylvania at National Limestone by Dave Lines

Perfect weather. Sunny --- to make those crystals sparkle. Warm --- short sleeve shirts, for sure. And no lightning like on our trip last summer. We met by 9:30 am at the Middleburg quarry office –- 21(*) of us, which included 5 invitees from the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society. (*Rich, John W., Harry and Tina, Renee, Andy and Melissa, Margie, Joe and Paula, Timothy and Tiffany, Ethan, Tim and Lorna, Dave, Jason and Jenny, and John, Kathy, and Julia)

The owner, Erick greeted us with a big, friendly smile and told us stories of past mineral finds at the two quarries. Several of our group gave him specimens for his collection. His signature personal Christian testimony to us was both impactful and well received –--- as it had been on every Saturday morning every year from mid-March through mid-October by hundreds (perhaps thousands) of rockhounds over many, many years. That personal sacrifice of his time is a testimony of true faithfulness.

Some news: a new shot had occurred that week, but --- the material had already been crushed. After a review of safety rules, we thanked Eric and headed to the quarry in a caravan of 12 vehicles. As the lead truck, we headed to the lowest portion of the 125-acre quarry. A few others elected to explore the upper portions of the quarry first. Calcite crystals were the first to be found and collected. There were plenty to be found by those who searched carefully for the telltale vugs in the limestone host rock.

Purple fluorite embedded in seams of massive white calcite in dark limestone was a favorite.

There were several areas of travertine (or "flowstone" as it is locally named) which had been set aside for collectors. This limestone cave material contained many interesting patterns which could be made into beautiful polished lapidary creations, but the most interesting specimen (collected by Andy) was a miniature, well-formed stalactite (or stalagmite?) with multiple little nodules. Another interesting find (by Melissa) was some small, but sharp and clear, crystals of honey colored calcite. Stunning. Some unusual specimens of pyrite crystals on calcite were also found.

A bit before 1:00 pm, we sounded the truck horn and formed a caravan of vehicles to move to the Mount Pleasant Mills quarry about 6 or 7 miles away. We drove into that quarry property through an area of stockpiled rock segregated into various sizes. We initially drove into the bottom of the main quarry where folks spread out to search for specimens. Some of us decided to head to the "backside" of the quarry to the wavellite pits. There were 4 of us initially and later 3 more joined.

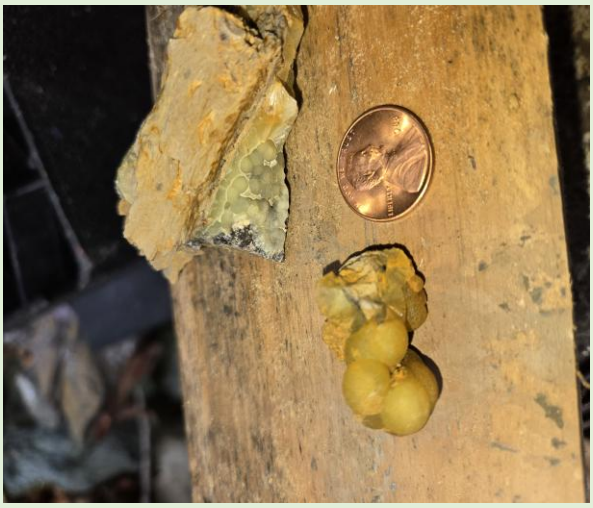
We all searched in the 2nd pit because it was larger and had zero vegetation. Since the sun was hot, we mostly stayed in the shadier areas around the upper edges of the pit. We were not disappointed. With diligent searching we found some thin green seams of wavellite in

the sandstone matrix. When split with a chisel and a 3-pound hammer, the yellow-green radiating pattern of wavellite crystals was revealed. Sometimes, the thin seams opened into a cavity containing green half-round spheres.

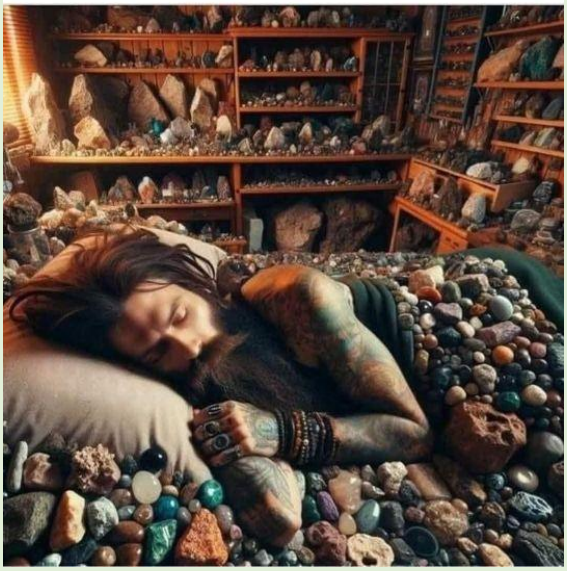
Rich found a nice specimen of half spheres. By 3:30 pm, most everyone had departed. Rich and I elected to check out those stockpiles of rocks that we had passed through on our initial entry into the property. It was worth the extra effort as I found a large chunk of material with some calcite crystals peeping out one edge. (Later back home, I spent an hour carefully breaking that rock apart to reveal many larger calcite crystals.) I also found a large chunk of limestone with white strontianite crystals all over one side.

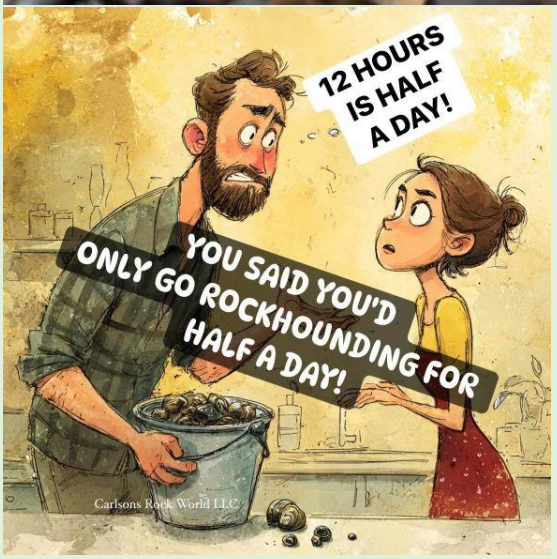
Then as we were about to quit, I found a large boulder of cave rock that, when split apart, revealed a very nice growth pattern that will look terrific when polished. We were the last to leave at 4:00 pm. It was an uneventful trip home after a long day driving (thanks Rich) and collecting.

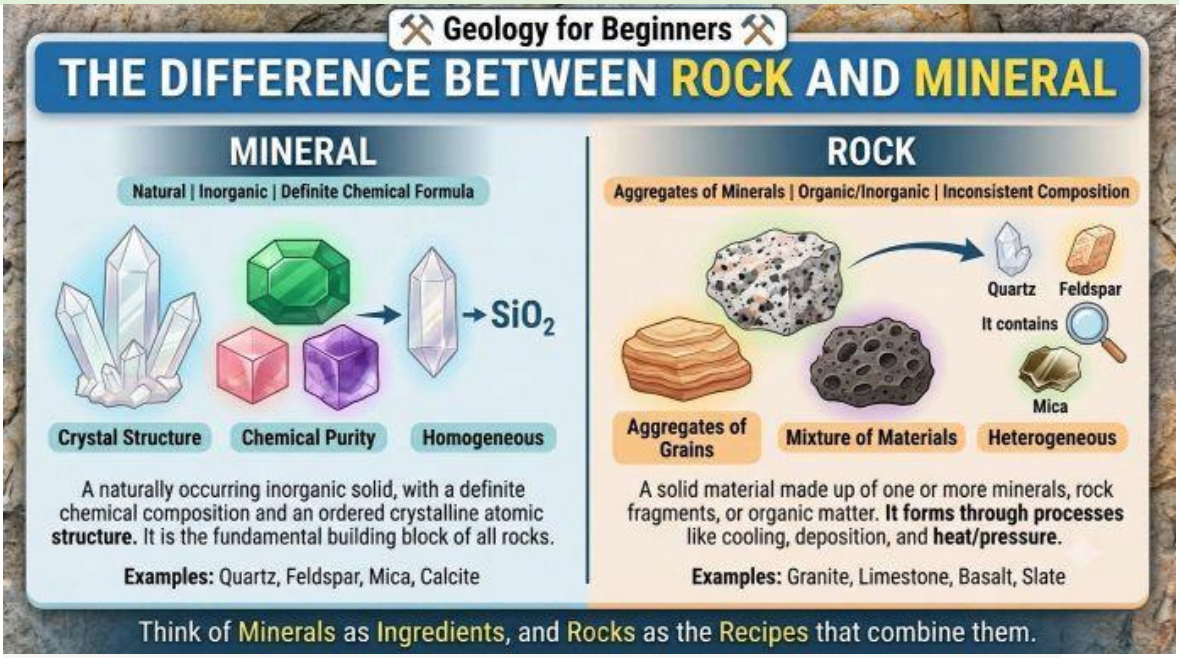
Thanks to National Limestone for sharing your wonderful Pennsylvania mineral bounty.



No such thing as too many rocks. 🤣






Geology for Beginners
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROCK AND MINERAL
MINERAL
Natural | Inorganic | Definite Chemical Formula
SiO_2
Crystal Structure
Chemical Purity
Homogeneous
A naturally occurring inorganic solid, with a definite chemical composition and an ordered crystalline atomic structure. It is the fundamental building block of all rocks.
Examples: Quartz, Feldspar, Mica, Calcite
ROCK
Aggregates of Minerals | Organic/Inorganic | Inconsistent Composition
Quartz
Feldspar
It contains
Mica
Aggregates of Grains
Mixture of Materials
Heterogeneous
A solid material made up of one or more minerals, rock fragments, or organic matter. It forms through processes like cooling, deposition, and heat/pressure.
Examples: Granite, Limestone, Basalt, Slate
Think of Minerals as Ingredients, and Rocks as the Recipes that combine them.

THE STERLING HILL MINING MUSEUM
FLUORESCENT MINERAL FANS — DON'T MISS THIS
SUMMER MINERAL SWAP & SELL
AT STERLING HILL MINE
FEATURING
FLUORESCENT MINERAL DEALERS
SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026
9 AM – 5 PM
STERLING HILL MINING MUSEUM
30 Plant St., Ogdensburg, NJ
FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING
For collectors, rockhounds, and museum visitors alike.

30th ANNUAL SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK, MINERAL, AND FOSSIL SHOW

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2026

9 am to 4 pm

OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

3074 CRAIN HIGHWAY (Rt 301), WALDORF MD 20601

(next to Jaycees Hall)

ADMISSION: $3, CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT.

Visit SMRMC.org FOR A $1 OFF COUPON

FREE rocks for all Kids. FREE Door prizes every 30 minutes.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING
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OVER 45 TABLES
***ROCKS *GEMSTONES *FOSSILS**
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***LAPIDARY *MINERALS**
***FLUORESCENT MINERAL TENT**

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WEBSITE: WWW.SMRMC.ORG

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VENDOR APPLICATIONS OR QUESTIONS?

CONTACT Kenny Jameson THRU WEBSITE: SMRMC.org

FOUND IN MARYLAND – REPRINT FROM FEB 2021
BY Rich Simcsak

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

This month's Word Search has the names of some of what has been found in Maryland through mining and collectors. DEFINATELY NOT the only minerals found in Maryland.

BLACK TOURMALINE
SERPENTINE
CHROMITE
ZOISITE
MOLYBDENITE
MANGANESE
GEOTHITE
GARNET
ASBESTOS
PYRITE
RUTILE
COAL
TALC
ZINC
LEAD
GOLD
LAUMONTITE
CALCITE
QUARTZ
BERYL
EPIDOTE
GROSSULARITE
LIMESTONE
SILVER
STILBITE
SULFUR

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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Treasurer
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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!!