

THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



Publication of the Capital District Mineral Club, Inc.
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August 2009

August-September Meeting

There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 3rd. The September meeting will be a show and tell. Please bring with you a few of your most prized specimens from the summer. Be prepared to tell us where you collected or bought this item and why it is special to you. Also bring your cash/checkbooks as most of our memberships have run out and it is time to renew! If you were a new member at the February 2009 show, your membership is still good, but the rest of you...

Field Trip Review

Batchellerville, New York - Saturday, May 23, 2009 - Field Trip Leader: Richard Hartnett

My first comment will probably echo those who joined me on the field trip: When can we go again! It was a spectacular day for finding extraordinary specimens. But before I get into that subject, here is a list of the 14 people who were on the trip: Ely Fuller, Gerry, Brenna, and Grace Pratt, Bob Ballard, Julie, Matt and Dan Stuart, Anne Woods, Mark Kilmer, Curtis Breuer, Christina Akers, Art Collins, and Richard Hartnett

We met at the former general store in Batchellerville at 11:00 am. Weather was overcast and a little cooler than when I started out, but soon the weather improved and it was ideal for collecting and NO BLACK FLIES.

We got really lucky: everyone found something. Trip Leader Richard Hartnett found a 3 1/2" by 3 1/2" Beryl Crystal, all six sides perfect, with some aquamarine color and partial termination. Curtis Breuer, who moved heaven, earth, and a few gigantic boulders, found many nice Beryl specimens, and Matt and Dan Stuart each found large Beryl Crystals. Art Collins was getting a little discouraged when, toward the end of digging, he came up with a nice aqua Beryl piece. Bob Ballard found several pieces of Uranium. Several people found nice Rose Quartz specimens. Gerry Pratt and daughters Brenna and Grace also were successful in finding nice specimens. It was especially nice that the four young people found treasures.

I hope to repeat this trip in July and September. It will be limited to 20 people as the collecting area was fairly tight for just the 14 of us; however, we know that the future potential of this site yielding good specimens has only begun. Curtis Breuer proved that by advancing a dig at a test hole and he came up with Aquamarine quickly.

I should add that this site is POSTED and no one should go there without the expressed written permission of the owner and signed releases for each person supplied by the owner. To go to the site otherwise would risk the loss of future field trips there for everyone and the risk of arrest for trespassing. A local resident does keep an eye on the site and reports

trespassers to the local sheriff's department, so beware.

The owner has been a really good friend to the Capital District Mineral Club and I would like to thank him publicly, but public acknowledgement of his name and the site location could be compromising and lead to problems as this newsletter can be accessed by many people.
-Richard Hartnett

August 2009 Field Trips and other

Saturday, August 23rd, Taconic State Park - Copake Falls Area. Rock Swap and BBQ with Mid-Hudson Gem and Mineral Society. Noon-4pm. We will be located at the only pavillion in that section of the park. Bring a burger/hotdog/tofu and something to share with the rest of the group. There is a BBQ pit there and tables. Bring your own plate, fork, spoon, etc. Also bring rocks, minerals, and fossils to swap. If you plan on coming, either just show up or email the club website: schmanie@albanyrockclub.com Getting There: Taconic State Park, Valley View Road, Copake Falls, New York 12517; Phone of State Park: 518-329-3993; On your road map, locate New York State route 22 (It will be just north of where the New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut borders come together). From route 22 take the exit Copake Falls/Taconic State Park and follow route 344 east to the park entrance.

Saturday, August 29th. Westmoreland, NH. Stoddard Mine. Trip leader Richard Hartnett. Fifteen (15) person limit. Call to sign up at 439-7243. Meeting point Route 7, Brunswick Walmart 7:30am, age limit 10+, Tools: Hard rock mining, hammer, chisel, safety glasses, bucket, small claw hook, bug spray, walking distance to site greater than 1/2 mile, no facilities. Things you can collect: Green, purple, clear, and blue fluorite, massive barite, chalcopyrite (micros), malachite (micros). Collecting will end around 3:30pm weather permitting. We will not collect on the lower site.

Mineral Shows

Aug. 7-9-West Springfield, MA: Show, "East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Better Living Center, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Dr.; 200 dealers, door prizes, guest speakers, museum-quality exhibits, wholesale section, \$6, under 12 free, parking \$5; Fri/Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; Contact mz0955@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com
Aug. 22-23-Canton, NY: 43rd annual show; St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club; Canton Sportsman's Club, Nickerson Rd.; contact William deLorraine, (315) 287-4652; wdellie@northnet.org; www.stlawrencecco.com
Aug. 29-30-Concord, NH: 46th annual show, "Capital Mineral Club Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Festival"; Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Rd., 1,500 feet east of I-93 Exit 14; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; \$4, 12 and under free; contact Scott P. Higgins, (207) 439-1107; www.capitalmineralclub.org
Aug. 29-30-Freeport, NY: Show; Village of Freeport; Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat/Sun. 10-5; \$5, under 12 free; contact Ralph Gose, P.O. Box 1418, Melville, NY 11747, (631) 271-8411; kaleidoscopegemshows@yahoo.com

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Batchellerville, NY pit May 2009.

Officers:

President	Anne Woods	518-322-7932
Vice Pres	Gerry Pratt	518-392-0453
Secretary	Curtis Breuer	518-338-6266
Treasurer	Robert Stitham	518-755-2255

Newsletter Staff:

Anne Woods schmanie@albanyrockclub.com
Don Kauffman - articles
Richard Hartnett - articles
Robert Stitham - general

Website:

<http://www.albanyrockclub.com>

All submissions to the newsletter must be in my hand before the 18th of any given month, or they will be used in the next subsequent newsletter.

The purpose of our club is:

- To promote and encourage the study of mineralogy and other applied sciences.
- To cooperate with educational and scientific institutions in order to bring about a better and more general understanding of earth sciences.
- To provide a program with suitable speakers for scheduled meetings.
- To sponsor, direct, and assist in the planning of excursions to mineral localities and other places of geological interest.
- To cooperate with organizations whose purposes are similar to those stated in the foregoing items.

The Capital Rockhounder and the Capital District Mineral Club are not responsible for the accuracy or authenticity of any information in the articles printed in this newsletter. Nor are the opinions here expressed necessarily those of the officers of the Capital District Mineral Club nor of the Newsletter Staff as a whole.