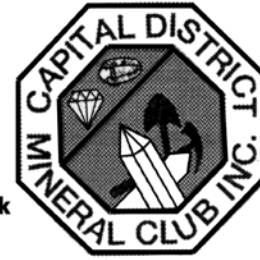


THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



Publication of the Capital District Mineral Club, Inc.
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P.O. Box 12814, Albany, New York 12212-2814

April 2006

April Meeting

The April meeting of the Capital District Mineral Club will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2006. We will meet in Meeting Room B on the main floor of the New York State Museum, Madison Ave., Albany, NY (unless otherwise noted at the front security desk). Please sign in and out at the security desk. The museum doors will be open from 7:00-7:15pm and the meeting will begin around 7:30pm. Please be on time since after 7:15pm sharp, we will no longer let you in.

April Program

The April program will be presented in three parts. The first part by Richard Stein who will be giving a talk on Safety for the Rockhoulder While Digging for Minerals.

Rich's program will cover clothing, tool and field safety and give examples of unsafe situations. Many sites have been closed to rockhoulders due to the careless actions of a few, Richard's safety tips should keep us digging in the field through the next century. We request that regular members limit their comments until the question & answer period at the end of the talk. For old timers, this talk serves as a reminder; for newcomers, it is information and instruction to help them safely enjoy the hobby.

Richard Stein was born (really was) in Palmerton, PA, about 15 miles north of Allentown. Graduated from High School there, then spent the next 3 1/2 years in the military. Found a laboratory job back home, but opted to go to Penn State to study chemistry. When BS was completed, jobs were very hard to find. Went instead to graduate school at the University of Akron (Akron, Ohio), earned M.S. in 1960. Went to work for Goodyear Tire Co. but continued night school. Eventually returned to the University full time, awarded PhD in Polymer Chemistry in January, 1967. Returned to Goodyear for Five years, then came to General Electric in Schenectady in the Insulating Materials Department, doing R & D work in electrical insulations. The department was sold twice before I retired - is currently a part of Von Roll - Isola, a Swiss conglomerate. Rich started collecting minerals in 1966 while on a cross-country vacation. Met quite a few weird, fanatical people who could think of nothing but rocks and minerals. Decided to join the crowd. Been doing it ever since. Joined CDMC in 1971 - the same year we arrived at GE. Best collecting ever - actually two trips, both as members of a Canadian club. First was a two-week trip to the area around Winnipeg, Manitoba. The most outstanding was also a two-week trip - to Newfoundland. Unfortunately, those two-week trips are no more. Today's most important project - high grade the material in all those boxes in the garage and basement, before the house collapses from the weight.

The second part will be the Powerpoint of the club that was shown at the Albany Mineral Show at our club table. The thought was that most club members were too busy working to actually stop and watch the whole presentation in its entirety, so here's your chance to critic it. If

you feel that something is missing, or needs to be removed, please let Anne Woods know, and then she will take your thoughts into consideration before next year (or the next time the club feels that they want to show it to the public again).

The third part will only occur if Bruce feels there is time, and will be a video tape titled "Underground Caverns" which lasts 28 minutes.

Review of March Meeting

We watched a 50-minute video "Collecting Earth's Natural Treasures" showed us all an introduction to the fun of collecting minerals, the wonder of fossils, and basic lapidary techniques.

Board Meeting Scheduled

George Gearhardt

A meeting of the Board of Trustees has been set for Thursday, April 13th at 7:00pm at George Gearhardt's home (67 E Hite Court in Guilderland, just off Carman Road, phone (518) 355 0670 for directions). The main topic will be "Operating Procedures Under Our New Bylaws". The members are: Joe Almasi, Bob Ballard, Gerald Boileau, Fred Dobert, Helen Eckler, Max Fischer; George and Barbara Gearhardt, Bob Hartig, Bruce and Charlyn Murray, Jim Palmer, Bob and Elaine Royer, Ruth Schmidt, Rich Stein, Bob Stitham, Paul Van Schaick, Chuck and Joyce Vedder, and Anne Woods. Contact any member if you wish any topic brought up to the board for consideration regarding meetings or field trips. Visitors are welcome to all board of trustee meeting, but are not allowed to vote at the board meeting.

April Field Trips

1. Mohawk River Rocks, Amsterdam, NY. Saturday April 8th. Time: 10am Meeting Place: truck stop on I-90 for Amsterdam, NY (just after toll booth turn into where large trucks can park). Field Trip Leader: Jim Palmer 399-9090. Materials to Collect: glacial pebbles (fossils and minerals have been found). Ankle support is highly recommended as you will be walking continuously on large uneven pebbles. Also water boots an option.
2. Margaret Hastings Herkimer Diamonds, Fonda, NY. Sunday April 22nd. Time: 10am. Meeting place: icecream stand near Fonda Raceway, Fonda, NY (off I-90 Fonda, NY exit). Field Trip Leader: Jim Palmer 399-9090. Materials to collect: herkimer diamonds.
3. Trotter Diggg in Franklin, NJ on April 29-30. If you need more information on this one, please contact Bob Hartig (see membership list). This one is on your own, but you must sign up ahead of time to go.

Mineral Show Update

Mike Hawkins

Our 13th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show was once again a huge success, thanks in large part to the assistance of the Capital District

Mineral Club. The gate was almost the same as last year, in spite of snow on Saturday, with more than 5,000 paying customers over the weekend, not counting children. The over 20 dealers and the Museum were all very happy with your extraordinary efforts. All were glad that the show was up on the 4th floor Terrace. The Museum mineral sales table had record proceeds of over \$2500 and Museum publications also did very well. The talks were well attended and, all in all, it was another great show.

The Museum once again wishes to show its appreciation to the Capital District Mineral Club by hosting the annual June banquet in Adirondack Hall in the State Museum. The Museum will underwrite 50% of the cost of the catered banquet and menu choices will appear in next months newsletter.

Rocky Words

Amy Sternstein

The object of this game is to find the name of a rock or mineral hidden within each sentence. Here is an example: It's almost time for the happy Rite of Spring! Find the answer? It's pyrite! (...happy Rite ...) Ready to try some more? Here they are. Good luck and have fun!

- (1) Even though the track was wet, Greg ran it every day.
- (2) Do you remember Hop Along Cassidy?
- (3) Running through the brush, Alex lost his sneaker.
- (4) Doug likes his sparkling ale naturally brewed.
- (5) The teenage mutant ninja sperm whale was a whopping sixty feet long!
- (6) Building her tower, Jane put a layer oh so slim on it every day.
- (7) The local cited for bravery was my neighbor.
- (8) Where art thou, Dame? Thy starry-eyed Romeo awaits thee!
- (9) Maybe it was a gorilla, Brad, or it even could have been Bigfoot.
- (10) I see that poor chap at it every time I walk by here.
- (11) While yer racin', nab a rutabaga fer me, will ya'?
- (12) When I left the Alagassi Corp., I mentioned how much I enjoyed working there.
- (13) There's a detour, Ma! Linens-N-Things is now out of reach!
- (14) It's just a blob, Sid. I analyzed it and it's just a blob.
- (15) If the water is deep, I do tell the kids to wear life jackets.

That's it for now! Answers appear on last page.

Show Committee Report Feb 25/26, 2006

George Gearhardt

I want to thank the twenty-three volunteers who showed up. Most of them worked two duty stations for a total of eight hours each.

I have checks totaling \$858.09 to present to our treasurer that represent thirty-six memberships collected during the show (thirty-three new and returning members) and the proceeds from the "Sand Box Dig". The Sand Box portion totalled \$271.85 which represents 1087 specimens at 25 cents each. This is almost twice our usual amount of \$150 for 600 specimens for the two days. This year the numbers were 538 on Saturday and 549 on Sunday. Go Teka! The membership number does not breakdown the number of adults and children now members in the club.

This year we added two showcases of minerals actually collected on club field trips and a large chart listing the proposed field trips for 2006. This held a large part in convincing many new members to join our club. We also invited many people to join us at our club meetings to check us out, and if they enjoyed the program and the people they

meet, hopefully they will decide to join our club now or at some point in the near future.

New pamphlets were prepared for the show (200 copies made) and by the end of the day on Saturday, Anne Woods (who had prepared the copies, had to run off 150 more for Sunday). There are currently only 39 copies of this pamphlet left over. We had lot of visitors, both children and adults. We were all impressed with the mineral specimens loaned by our field trip collectors as were our visitors.

Another new feature was a Powerpoint Presentation of pictures and slides taken at some of the field trips and our website offerings (also prepared in a large part by Anne Woods).

Volunteers on Museum's Mineral Show

George Gearhardt

The following twenty-three members should be commended for covering the forty-two duty stations during the weekend, starting with Friday assisting the dealers on their arrival at the museum; the two day show itself; and finally assisting the dealers on their departure.

The twenty-three members are: Bob Ballard; Gerald Boileau; Dawn Collins; Flo Derry; Max Fischer; George & Barbara Gearhardt; Cheryl & Tom Halleran; Bob & Pam Hartig; Marsha McCoy; Bruce & Charyl Murray; Andy & Mark Nelsen; Jim Palmer; Bob & Teka Stitham; Katie Slaver; Paul Van Schaick; Don Welch; and Anne Woods. It is also possible some members showed up and did work but were not on my list and should also be commended.

A Geological Road Trip To A Rock and Mineral Show in Connecticut

Bruce and Charlyn Murray

From Albany, the most interesting geological route to the Lapidary and Mineral Society of Central Connecticut mineral show is route 90-east to route 8 at Lee, Mass. and south to Waterbury, then east on route 84 and 691 to Meriden. Route 8 south follows a fault line through metamorphosed gneisses and schists which are 350 to 500 million years old. The road, which is cut through the rock, follows the Colebrook stream which widens into several ponds, then a good-sized dammed lake. The west side cut near the dam is a solid dark rock wall at least a hundred feet in height. Some of the ponds had ice-fishermen, who at that day's temperature of 55 degrees were apparently not very concerned about the thin ice. Later that evening, a restaurant worker said, "We tell them every year to keep off the spring ice and every year we lose a few." Driving east from Waterbury on rt. 84 on a four lane highway you pass through new road cuts cut through gneisses and schists which are folded into anticlines and synclines. This is part of the Iapetos (Oceanic) terrane, which is a small tectonic plate that moved in from the east and fused with the North American continent several million years ago. Continuing east over rt. 691 to Meriden you drive over a fault that separates the metamorphic rocks from the sedimentary rocks, which near Meriden are horizontal layered with alternate loosely packed red sandstone and densely packed redbeds - dark red sandstone. A sample of the rock shows it to be quite hard and dense.

Free rocks samples were given out to the guests at the mineral show, the rocks du jour were eagerly sought after by the children. Last year, one dealer was selling a 10 inch quartz bowl which sang with an eerie melodious tone when stroked. It got the attention of many people. This year one of the dealers was selling blue aquamarine crystals from

Pakistan and light blue beryl and light green tourmaline from Connecticut. He said he was going to Pakistan to dig for the aquamarine and we kidded him about bandits and needing an AK-47 submachine gun. He said the biggest problem was the altitude of the mines where there was less oxygen than most people were accustomed to. He mentioned the beryl and tourmaline crystals came from the Swanson Quarry in Connecticut but it was closed to all rockhounds because some rockhounds had ignored the quarry safety rules. Other quarries are now being very restrictive or closed to rockhounds because of similar safety problems.

We cruised the other dealers and came back with purple amethyst and pink fluorite crystals (something new to us), malachite/azurite, labradorite, rutiled quartz and tigereye slabs. The prices were quite reasonable, particularly if you talked mineralogically to the dealer and then asked for a discount

EFTA Updates

Bob Hartig

It is that time of year again – to start thinking about field trips from the Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA). It is a group of mineral clubs that schedule 3 field trips each that are open to all other EFTA clubs. There should be over 25 participating clubs. That equals over 75 field trips that are available through out the year, plus several special trips. The Fluorite Fantasy Weekend at Walworth is one that has produced substantial spectacular specimens the last couple of years. A 2-day dig with freshly blasted material and an optional Saturday night dinner. (Note it will not be held on Labor Day weekend this year.) If you are a field collector, it is a great benefit to belong to a club participating with EFTA. Most weekends you can have your choice of places to go, from Maine to Virginia. The idea behind EFTA is to allow members of all clubs to collect in areas that they normally would not have access to. In past years there were many really good trips available. We need to provide a minimum of 3 trips every year that we can offer to members of other clubs in order to remain an active member. There has been a request to not use commercial (fee) locations, such as the Herkimer Diamond areas. If you would like to go on another club's trip you need to contact me, Bob Hartig, soon enough that I can then contact the host club at least 1 week in advance. Please do not call me a couple of days before a trip and expect to be able to go. You can best reach me by e-mail at rockbob@nycap.rr.com and please note EFTA in the "subject line". I do not always get to my mail every day, so get your request in as early as possible. I will then send you a confirmation & more specific trip info. Phone 518-842-5948. We expect all members participating in EFTA trips to observe the same safety rules & collecting courtesy that they would on our own trips. Membership cards are required at every dig. No guests, not even family. Hard hats & boots are a must in a working quarry. Safety glasses & gloves also. You are responsible for your children, when children are allowed. Good luck & have fun.

CAPITAL DISTRICT MINERAL CLUB SAFETY MANUAL

Safety: First, Last, and Always!!!

Required Reading

Edited and amended by Louis Dushek and Richard Hartnett
January 1993

CODE OF ETHICS OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

- (1) I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission of the owner.
- (2) I will keep informed of all laws, regulations, and rules governing collecting on public lands and I will observe them.
- (3) I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- (4) I will use no firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.
- (5) I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind, such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- (6) I will leave all gates as found.
- (7) I will build fires, if they are permitted, only in designated or safe places and will be certain that they are completely extinguished before leaving.
- (8) I will discard no burning materials - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- (9) I will fill in all excavations/holes which may be hazardous to livestock or people.
- (10) I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- (11) I will cause no damage to collecting material will take only what I can reasonably use.
- (12) I will support the Rockhound Project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter, Please).
- (13) I will cooperate with Field Trip Leader those with designated authority in all collecting areas.
- (14) I will report to by club or Federation Officers, Bureau of Land Management and other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on Public Lands which should be protected for the benefit of future generations and for educational or scientific purposes.
- (15) I will appreciate and protect our heritage of Natural Resources.
- (16) I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners, and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

FIELD TRIPS SAFETY RULES

- (1) Never go on a field trip alone. Have someone along who can help or summon help in an emergency. Observe the "buddy system" and do not go collecting alone.
- (2) Children should always be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. That person should always keep the child/children in sight. A child alone could wander into a dangerous situation, become lost, or suffer serious injury.
- (3) Do not collect directly above or beneath another person.
- (4) When parking your vehicle, do not block egress/outlets, roadways, or other vehicles.
- (5) Should you have to leave a field trip early, please notify the field trip leader.
- (6) Do not disturb or touch any wires in a working quarry - these could be blasting wires. Notify your field trip leader if you come across any wires, blasting caps, or explosives.
- (7) Practice fire safety. Makes sure all combustibles are cold before leaving a campfire.
- (8) Do not throw rocks, tools, or other items as this may cause personal injury or property damage.
- (9) Avoid old mine tunnels and shafts. They may be water-filled or have poorly supported beams.
- (10) Quarry vehicles always have the right-of-way. Stay clear of quarry vehicles and equipment.
- (11) Respect "No Trespassing" signs (legally posted or otherwise)!
- (12) Respect your fellow collector's dig. Do not jump claims.
- (13) Never eat wild plants or drink from ponds or waterways unless you are absolutely sure the water is safe for human consumption.
- (14) Do not reach into crevices or into areas where you cannot see to avoid snakebite, insect, spider, or other animal hazards.
- (15) Do not collect under overhangs and/or hanging walls. Such areas pose dangers from sudden collapse.
- (16) Do climb talus slopes. Rock slides are possible as well as falls.
- (17) Sand pits pose many dangers due to cave-ins and should be generally avoided.

CHILDREN ON FIELD TRIPS

- (1) A child is defined as anyone under age 18.
- (2) A child must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. This person must be willing to assume full legal and behavioral responsibility for the child.
- (3) Children will be permitted on designated field trips. They will be excluded from field trips which are deemed dangerous, including some working quarries.
- (4) If a child has shown reckless behavior, he/she may be excluded from all field trips. Such non-compliant behavior on a field trip will be cause for immediate expulsion from the site.

TOOLS

- (1) Only hammers and chisels designated specifically for rockhounding should be used. The hammered tops of chisels that show flaking should be ground off.
- (2) Wedges with flaked tops should also be ground off.
- (3) Sledge hammer handles should be inspected before use for splinters and cracks.
- (4) Tools should be compatible with the user's ability.
- (5) Pry bars should have a working end which provides a snug grip in the seam.

WEARING APPAREL

- (1) Hiking or safety boots are strongly recommended.
- (2) Safety glasses or goggles must be worn when breaking rocks or near someone who is.
- (3) Hard hats should be worn at all times in working quarries and are generally recommended otherwise.
- (4) Long-sleeved shirts or jackets should be worn to protect the wearer from injury or sunburn. A sun visor or hat is also recommended for protection.
- (5) Gloves should be worn when digging, especially when working with sharp rocks.

FIRST AID AND SAFETY ITEMS

- (1) Carry basic first aid materials (kits).
- (2) Have enough liquid to drink with you for the day, and carry it with you into the field.
- (3) A compass, flashlight, and matches are useful items to carry.
- (4) Be sure someone knows of your plans - where you are going, when you plan to return, and what you plan on doing.
- (5) Know the limitations of your vehicle - ground clearance, traction, etc. Be certain your vehicle is in good working order.
- (6) Inform the field trip leader of any medical conditions which may require special considerations or precautions.

Capital District Mineral Club Membership List - March 2006

| | | | | | |
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Capital District Mineral Club Membership List - March 2006

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| | | | Ruth Schmidt | | |

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 P.O. Box 12814
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| Secretary | Helen Eckler | 518-943-3459 |
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| Don Kauffman | |
| George Gearhardt | |

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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.

Upcoming Mineral Shows

April 1-2. Hamburg, NY. Show, "Fool's Gold--Not the Real Thing; Buffalo Geological Society; Fairgrounds, Grange/Market Bldgs., S. Park Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children 12 and under free; Contact Robert J. Hoffman, 65 Cheekwood Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14227, (716) 656-8475.

April 1-2. Johnson City, NY. 37th annual show; New York Southern Tier Geology Club; Johnson City Senior Center, Brockton St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Contact Valerie McMartin, (607) 625-2087; e-mail: val@stny.rr.com.

April 1-2. Hamburg, NY. Show, "Fool's Gold--Not the Real Thing; Buffalo Geological Society; Fairgrounds, Grange/Market Bldgs., S. Park Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children 12 and under free; Contact Robert J. Hoffman, 65 Cheekwood Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14227, (716) 656-8475.

April 1-2. Plymouth Meeting, PA. Annual show and sale, "Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair"; Philadelphia Mineralogical Society, Delaware Valley Paleontological Society; LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike; adults \$4, kids under 12 and uniformed Scouts free; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact Karenne Snow, (609) 953-1987, or Doug, (610) 971-0620.

April 8-9. Freeport, NY. 31st annual show; Village of Freeport; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Contact John Andersen, P.O. Box 551, N. Bellmore, NY 11710-0551, (516) 781-8410.

April 29-30. Franklin, NJ. 34th annual show and outdoor swap-and-sell; New Jersey Earth Science Association, Sterling Mining Museum, Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society; the Franklin School; Sat. 9-5:30, Sun. 10-5; Sat. night banquet at the Sterling Mine, Contact Fred Stohl, 10 Millen Dr., Toms River, NJ 08753-5219, (732) 341-3553.

Tentative Field Trip List

- April 8 - Mohawk River Trip
- April 22 - Margaret Hastings Claim (Apr 29 raindate)
- April 29-30 - Trotter Dump Digg, Sterling Hill, NJ
- May 13 - Pyrite concretions
- May 27 - Saint Lawrence Cement Quarry
- June 10 - Green Garnets Farm
- June 17 - Knox/Berne Clarkesville Exploratory Trip
- July 15 - Outcrop in Minerva, NY
- July 22 - Howes Cave Quarry -new
- July 29 - Stoddard Mine, NH
- August 5-6 - Gold Panning, Wild Ammoumoosic
- August 14-19 Barton Scientific Tour (one day)
- September 9 - Cascade Lake Exploratory Trip
- September 16-17 - Saint Clair Fossils
- September 30 - Margaret Hastings Claim
- October 14 - Illion Gorge Travertine
- TBA - LaFarge Quarry - new

- (1) ... Greg ran it every...
- (2) ... Hop Along ...
- (3) ... Brush, Alex lost...
- (4) ... sparkling ale naturally...
- (5) ... minja sperm whale...
- (6) ... so slim on it every...
- (7) The local cited for...
- (8) ... Dame? Thy stary-eyed...
- (9) ... gorilla, Brad, or it even could...
- (10) ... poor chap at it every time...
- (11) ... yer racin', nab a rutabaga...
- (12) ... Alagassi Corp., I mentioned...
- (13) ... a detour, Mal' Limens-N-Things...
- (14) ... a blob, Sid, I analyzed it...
- (15) ... is deep, I do tell the...