

THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



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

August 2003

No Meeting! No Program! Nothing until September 4, 2003. See you then.

Newsletter

Your newsletter staff is leaving on vacation following mailing of this newsletter. Any and all items for the September Newsletter should be sent or forwarded to Gerald Boileau, no later than August 20, 2003.

Dues Are Due!

August 31 ends our fiscal year and dues are now due. A form is enclosed for your convenience. Of course all new members who joined at the February show are covered until August 31 of next year. What a bargain!

Field Trip Reports

July 4-5 - NEFTA Trip to the Wise Mine is featured in an article by member, Don Kaufman, following these items.

July 19 - Hooper Mine - No report at this time.

July 26 - Roxbury, CT

On September 26, 2003, Gerald Boileau will be leading a field trip to Roxbury, CT. We will be looking predominantly for Garnets but will also keep our eyes open for Staurolites. Most of them are single crystals but I did find a very nice cross a couple of years ago.

We will be meeting at the Gateway Diner, Central Avenue, Albany and leaving at 9:30 AM sharp. It is about a 3 hours trip.

WHAT TO WEAR - VERY IMPORTANT.

Wear long pants and long sleeve shirts. This may be uncomfortable but we will be making a very easy 15-minute walk, where we will be exposed to poison ivy and the possibility of ticks. Don't forget to tuck the bottom of your pant legs into your socks. Bring a good insect repellent since we will have mosquitoes and possible black flies. A cap would be a good idea to keep bugs and sun off your head.

WHAT TO BRING. A screen, mesh, or strainer to separate the dirt and sand from the garnets; digging tools; bucket or container to hold the garnets; gloves; safety glasses; water or soda; and food.

Call Gerald Boileau to sign up for the trip at 482-0511 to sign up.

August 2 - Clarksville Fossil Trip, Clarksville, NY lead by Richard Hartnett

What is there to collect? Devonian fossils: Cephalopods, Trilobites, Gastropods (snails), Brachiopods, Horn Corals, Reef Forming Corals

Location: Clarksville, NY (Albany County) 15 miles from downtown Albany

Meeting Place: Bethlehem Central High School, Route 443 (Delaware Ave.), Delmar, NY

Meeting Time: 9:30 am
Field Trip Leader: Richard Hartnett (518-439-7243)
- Please call if you are going.

Distance: (from Bethlehem Central High school)
Nine (9) miles

Walking Distance to Site: a quarter of a mile

Rest rooms and lunch at Stewart's about 2 miles from site

Age restrictions: None, but we will be next to a pond and this trip is not recommended for very small children.

Equipment to bring: Safety glasses, gloves, bug spray, kneeling pad (optional), approved crack hammers and chisels, collecting boxes/pack, magnifying glass, water (drinkable).

Car Pooling may be necessary

Note: this has been a very unique and popular location for past club trips. The location is known to only a few people and has yielded some find specimens.

Richard Hartnett still has a possible gold panning exploratory trip in Vermont. If interested call 518-439-7243.

NEFTA Wise Mine Trip a HOT Hit

After a seemingly endless chain of rain deluged weekends for many of us in the northeast, this holiday venture was a hit. On July 5th members of NEFTA's linked clubs made a joint pilgrimage into one of New England's most famous collecting properties, the Wise Fluorite Mine. Firecracker hot and dirt dry turnabout weather failed to keep thirty to forty-five mineral enthusiasts away.

Wise Mine owner Jim Tovey and members of Concord's host Capital Mineral Club were on hand to greet collectors to this holiday collecting dream. Noted were members from New Jersey, New York, the Boston Mineral Club, the Rhode Island Mineral Hunters, Connecticut and ten members of our

Albany Capital District Mineral Club.

This reporter traveled overnight from down Pennsylvania way, arrived at 5:15 am and greeted NEFTA President Ed Murphy at the landmark Old Red Schoolhouse around 7 in the morning. Other participants began to arrive around 8 am. After signing off on attendance and waivers the gathering pooled into 4x4's and began the long caravan up the narrow trail to the mine site.

Many prospectors anxiously began working mounded dump areas for the prized emerald green Wise fluorite. Except for a few golf ball sized pieces it seemed larger pieces of the beautiful green mineral was, for the most part, rather elusive.

My early successes came down in old graded out dumps near the bottom of the mine access road. Gleaning the surface uncovered an irregular chunk of the gemmy fluorite. A very fine terminated quartz crystal about one and a half inch in length was picked out of the dry dirt chunks. Thumbnail-size fluorites were picked up and given consideration for faceting purposes or as club kid specimens.

Many Capital District members dug into the mounds of dirt dozed back from the original pit. Rich Stein and Bob Ballard seemed to have the most success with their excavations. Also present from the Albany membership was club president, Mark Kilmer, Bob Hartig, Dennis Mower, Barbara and George Gearhardt. Although slowed progress, most of our group were able to experience some rewards from their digging. Late arrivals (Sunday morning) Bruce and Charlyn Murray filled out our representation.

Probably the best part of the day was when pumps from the old water-filled pit were started. The cool water caused immediate relief as hands were plunged beneath the flow to "wash" rivulets of Wise Mine green. There were some rewards. NEFTS President Ed Murphy produced a succes-

sion of three beautiful green fluorite chunks from beneath the mud channels created by the rushing waters.

As July's sun climbed higher into the sky, heat could be felt taking over. By late afternoon, some people ended their efforts and chose to seek shade, sit out the remaining time and be spectators to those who continued mineral hunting.

From most accounts, many from the District club decided to take Saturday's booty and be satisfied. We chose to forfeit a second day in the unforgiving heat perhaps in anticipation of another cooler expedition.

NEFTA President Ed Murphy said Jim Tovey and the Concord group were pleased with response and conduct of all who came to the site. A future return trip to Wise Mine is certain.

Will we return for the fluorite again, when opportunity knocks? You bet we will!!

Submitted by Don Kaufman, long distance driver and member from Reading, PA.

Wildacres in September

Last week we were in a small family restaurant in Sedro-Woolley, Washington. Each table had a laminated sheet with some quizzes. We took the geography one and I had no trouble asserting that Mt. Mitchell is in North Carolina. Why do I know this? It is because we have such a fine view of the highest peak on the eastern seaboard from the porch and patio at Wildacres.

The view is not the only reason to go though. The next session of Wildacres is September 2-8, 2003. The guest speaker, Fred Ward, is one of the most popular we have ever had. He is a former writer/photographer for National Geographic who now has his own business publishing his books on diamonds, rubies and sapphires, jade, pearls, opal, and emeralds. Each talk, based on his own travels

and research, is beautifully illustrated with his excellent slides. Be prepared to go to mines in exotic places, behind the scenes in museums and other places to which we regular folk do not have access, and to the South seas for pearls.

The fun doesn't end there. A number of classes are offered such as silversmithing, cabochon making, wirecraft, soapstone carving, judging, chainmaking, faceting, filigree and micromounting. Our experienced and talented teachers will do their best to help you learn and create your own masterpieces during the week. A free day for exploring local gem and mineral shops, craft shops, waterfalls and the Blue Ridge Parkway is another attraction. We also have a tailgate session, a sharing time, an auction and a fun night. This is a great time to share your favorite jokes and stories, to sing a song or play an instrument, to put together a skit or demonstrate any other talents you possess.

Let's not forget the free time either. Many of us love the rocking chairs on the porches and the camaraderie of our fellow attendees. Others like to hang out in the canteen for playing cards, games or ping pong (and early morning coffee!). Generous meals are served family style and the rooms are double occupancy motel style. The cost is only \$275 for the week and includes everything except some supplies for certain classes. This educational and craft experience is a bargain not to be missed.

It is not too late, make your reservations now! Contact registrar John Milligan: 1931 Carmichael Road, Owego, NY 13877-3320. You can download an application from the EFMLS website at www.amfed.org/efmls

Cathy Gaber, EFMLS

September Field Trip

September 2-21 - Winfield and Mandata, PA

Saturday, 9/20 - Winfield. Noted for strontianite, calcite and fossils. Bring swap material. Operating

quarry rules apply.

Sunday, 9/21 - Mandata. Starting at 12:00 noon. Best known for celestine. Also yields calcite (some highly fluorescent), strontianite, fluorite and barite. Operating quarry rules apply.

These quarries are south of Lewisburg, PA - a drive of some six hours from the Capital District. If you expect to make the trip, and be on time for the start of collecting each day, plan to arrive Friday evening. For a list of motels, contact Rich Stein at 518-355-4423. For campers, consult camping guides - there are two or three sites in the area.

Update on Maine's Newry Park Project

By Don Kaufman

For those of you interested in the progress of the Maine's Newry Park Project, here are the latest figures regarding contributions made to the Maine Geological Survey. As of June 27, 2003, contributions made by mineral clubs and societies from California to New Jersey and Florida to Maine, \$20,495. The goal is \$300,000.

If you wish to check online yourself, go to: www.state.me.us and "click on" Newry Park Project.

NEFTA Field Trips (If interested in any of these trips, email Bob Hartig at [<phartig@nycap.rr.com>](mailto:phartig@nycap.rr.com))

Aug. 2 - Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of the Raritan Valley, Lancaster Co., PA. Description: Limestone mineral dig. Meet at gate to quarry entrance for entry at 8 am. Geology: this is an active limestone quarry, which cuts through the formation of dense, gray to black dolomitic limestone. Mineralization occurs as vein fillings to brecciated limestone.

Aug. 2 - Capital Mineral Club, N. Groton, NH.

Beryl, Apatite, Phosphates (could be Palermo Mine that we have been trying to contact).

Aug. 16 - Wayne County Mineral Club. Western New York, time 7:30 am to 12 noon. Fluorites, Sphalerite, Calcite.

Aug. 16 - Fulton County Mineral Club, northeastern NY. An old closed iron mine. Tentative date.

Aug. 16 - Capital District Mineral Club, mid NY., quartz xls in hard rock, \$10 (cancelled by lack of interest).

Aug. 24 - Bristol Rock and Mineral Club, Lakeville Iron Furnace and slag heaps, multicolored slag, old iron artifacts.

Aug. 25 - St. Lawrence Co. Rock and Mineral Club, St. Lawrence County, NY. \$5.00 fee. Blue Calcite, Hexagonite, Wollastonite, Prehnite, Talc, Chrome Tremolite, Tremolite.

Aug. 30-31 - Rochester, NY - Fluorite Fantasy Weekend II, Walworth Quarry, Walworth, NY. This is an opportunity to collect at Walworth Quarry for two days. NEFTA has planned a great weekend including Chicken BBQ. For more information, contact Bob Hartig (email address above).

Upcoming Shows

July 26-27: The Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Swap, Auction and Picnic. Newark Fireman's Field, West Shore Blvd. For more information check www.americanhobbyshop.com/wcgm

Aug. 8-10: 16th Annual East Coast Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show, W. Springfield, MA.

This is the biggest show on the East Coast. Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10-7; Sun. 10-5.

Aug. 23-24: 37th St. Lawrence Annual Gem & Mineral Show & Swap, Sportsman's Field, Canton, NY. Saturday night BBQ Turkey Supper.

Sept. 27-28: 47th Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Gem & Mineral Show, Franklin School, Washington Avenue, Franklin, NJ. Hours: Sat. 9-6; Sun. 10-5.