

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 2007

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in SEPTEMBER.

Field Trips

July 28. Westmoreland, NH. Stoddard Mine. Trip leader Richard Hartnett. Call to sign up at 439-7243. The meeting place is on the outer edge of the Walmart parking lot towards Route 7 in Brunswick, NY (just up the hill from Troy on Route 7) at 8:00am. Things you can find include light green and dark purple fluorite, barite, small malachite bursts, quartz crystal clusters, barite, and pyrite (perhaps even galena). We will stop in Wilmington, Vermont, at Dot's Diner, for coffee and breakfast; a great rest spot. Stopping at Dot's has become a tradition on this trip. The distance involved from our meeting/departure point in Brunswick was roughly 85 miles each way. Bug spray is a must. Bring chisels, suntan lotion, hammers, etc. Working on old mine site in woods.

August 4. Howes Cave Quarry. Howes Cave, NY.

Leader Robert Stitham will meet participants at the Schohaire exit on 1-88 at 10 am. Please contact the field trip leader at gumbly59@mhccable.com or call and leave a message at 755-2255 if you want to attend. Paul Griggs will then lead us throughout the quarry to collect fossils. There is a historical museum here as well (we had to take our shoes off last time). Please bring hardhats, gloves, hiking boots, safety goggles, as well as buckets, bug spray, hammers, suntan lotion, chisels, etc. You will be collecting many different kinds of fossils. Sometimes travertine (flowstone calcite) is available in small amounts. Noted from last trip "On the way there each one of us discovered that the last road sign we needed 'Howes Cave Road' had been turned so that we all went down the wrong road. Luckily for us (but not so lucky for the people on the road), the road in question had 'Road Closed' signs all over it. After each of us went around 2 road closed signs, we each ended up face to face with a road block that went across the entire road. This forced us to turn around and go seek help at the local animal shelter who then told us we were off by one road."

August 18. Roxbury Garnet Farm. Roxbury, CT.

There will be a field trip to Roxbury, Connecticut on Saturday, August 18. We will be looking for garnets. The distance by car to Roxbury is approximately two and one half hours long. We will be meeting at the Gateway Diner parking lot at 10:00am. The Diner is located on Central Avenue across from the Hannaford Plaza. Please wear long pants since we might encounter a little Poison Ivy. Also please bring bug spray since we will be collecting in the woods. There is a quarry there should you wish to do some "hardrock" mining. Please bring appropriate gear should you wish to do so. We will be digging in the dirt so it is best to bring digging and scraping tools as well as a screen and gloves. You will also want to bring a bucket or backpack to carry out your garnets. Please note that there are no facilities of any kind at this collecting site. If you plan on attending please call Gerald Boileau, the trip leader, at (518) 482-0051.

Field Trip Reports

June 30. Clarksville and Gallupville, NY.

Our field trip embarked from Bethlehem Central High School in Delmar at 9:30 am. This was a fossil hunting trip to a familiar location (Clarksville) with a side trip to Gallupville.

Eleven people, including co-leaders Rich Stein and I, went on the trip. The other participants were Carol and Joe Van Camp, John Futerko, Bob Ballard, Bob Stitham, Kevin Baskin, Anne Woods, and Jeff and Alex Klein. The weather cooperated and we had a mild day with sunshine.

Fossils gathered at the Clarksville location included trilobites, horn corals, brachiopods, cephalopods, and some mystery fossils, possibly sponges and new corals not seen before at that site. No gastropods were recovered this time.

After everyone was satisfied that they had their fill, we departed for Gallupville to a site for tentaculites. The site was prolific and everyone got specimens, some with what looked like bryozoans

and some had trilobite pieces and small brachiopods.

I discovered a cache of mineral specimens left by some rockhound at the Gallupville site and many shared in the booty. Among the minerals were specimens of green prehnite crystals, pink dolomite crystals, blue-green tourmaline crystals, calcite, pyrite crystals, and white natrolite crystals. Obviously, these minerals were not native to the area.

Richard Hartnett

July 7. Hooper Garnet Mine. Adirondacks, NY.

On July 14, the Capital District Mineral Club had a field trip to the Hooper Garnet Mine located in North River near the Garnet Hill Sky Center. Accompanying the field trip leader (me), were Bob Ballad, Kevin Baskin, and his son Kyle. The weather was beautiful and the hike to the mine was short (about fifteen minutes) and not difficult. We found some nice specimens consisting of garnets, feldspar, and hornblend. We did not find any of the Enstatite crystals that can be found at the Hooper Garnet Mine location. In the past I did find some nice Enstatite crystals up to an inch on a side. Everyone had a good time.

Gerald Boileau

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July 21. Old Redwing Quarry, Falls Village, CT. was cancelled by the quarry at the last moment. No further information is currently available.

2007 Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Field Trip Itinerary

- August 4. Boston Mineral Club. Harvard Quarry, Greenwood, ME. for pegmatite minerals
- August 11. North Shore Rock and Mineral Club. Wild Ammonoosuc River, Swiftwater NH. Gold Panning, Sluicing for Gold. Campsites, panning on campground property available, but not required. Tools- picks and shovels, trowels, gold pans, sluices, etc. Contact Joe Grace. joergrace@msn.com
- August 18. Mid-Hudson Valley. Ilion, NY for fluorescent & phosphorescent travertine. No limit. No facilities. Contact sunstone3@hvc.rr.com for details.
- August 18. Capital District Mineral Club. Roxbury, CT for well formed garnet xls and staurolite. Easy digging/screening and tough ledge work for matrix. Small (\$5 per car?) fee. No facilities. Contact phartig@nycap.rr.com for details.
- August 25-26. St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club. Powers Farm, West Pierrepont, NY & Bush Farms. Classic Powers Farm Uvites, and maybe some Uralites & Bush Farms for the Brown Uvites also known as Dravites and Fluoresces like Dravites. Contact Bill deLorraine.wdellie@northnet.org
- August 25-26. SACO Valley Gem & Mineral Club. VAG quarry- Eden Mills, VT- asbestos related minerals, including diopside, gemmy grossular garnets, titanite, vesuvianite \$5.00 per day digging fee. Field trip contact: Bob York 603-356-4424 quartzhunter@aol.com
- September 1-3. Rochester Lapidary Society: Herkimer "Diamonds". and Ilion Gorge Travertine. Contact Cindi Newman at kcnewman@frontiernet.net
- September 8. Capital District Mineral Club. Minerva, NY. An old railroad cut, about a mile walk. Main minerals are blue calcite with small graphite and tiny

blue apatite crystals included. Also yellow & green calcite, vesuvianite, wollastonite, scapolite, diopside and others in lesser amounts. No facilities. For history buffs - the historic Tahawus mine and village of Adirondak are a few miles north. Garnet collecting sites are several miles south. Contact phartig@nycap.rr.com for details.

- September 8. Mineralogist's Guild. Lancaster Co., PA. Calcite, zeolites, quartz 7:45 AM at quarry gate, no persons under age 18, no facilities, 48 hour minimum sign up required and directions through Dave Rieur: +1 (908) 938-5525.
- September 16. SACO Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Moat Mountain- Conway, NH- smoky quartz, microcline, topaz, albite. Field trip contact: Bob York 603-356-4424 quartzhunter@aol.com
- September 22. Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Lancaster Co., PA. Calcite, dolomite, quartz, sphalerite, fluorite. 7:30 AM at quarry gate, no persons under age 18, no facilities, 48 hour minimum sign up and EFMLS card required. Directions through Merrill Dickinson +1(610) 473-9973
- September 27. Mineralogist's Guild. Lancaster Co., PA. Calcite, dolomite, quartz, sphalerite, fluorite. 7:45 AM at quarry gate, no persons under age 18, no facilities, 48 hour minimum sign up required and directions through Dave Rieur: +1 (908) 938-5525
- September 29-30. Franklin Mineral Museum's. 51st Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show. Franklin School, Washington Ave. Info - Lee Lowell 973/827-3658. Show Treasurer. fmm1954@earthlink.net

Rock Shows 2007

- July 28-29. Cutchogue, NY. 26th annual show; Long Island Mineral & Geological Society; Cutchogue East Elementary School, Main Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, children under 12 free with adult; Contact Julie, (631) 594-1843; e-mail: adcom1a@msn.com; or Maureen; e-mail: adcom2b@msn.com.
- July 28-29. South Burlington, VT. 28th annual show, "Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show"; Burlington Gem & Mineral Club; Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors and students 6-16 \$2, children under 6 free with adult; Contact Kathy Howe, (802) 656-4118; Web site: www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org.
- August 10-12--WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS: Retail and wholesale show, East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Martin Zinn Expositions; Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave.; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, children under 12 free; special exhibits by the Sterling Hill Mining Museum and Franklin Mineral Museum, free kids specimens, free mineral identification, lectures, 200 retail and wholesale dealers; contact Regina Aumente, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com.
- August 25-26. Canton, NY. 41st annual show; St. Lawrence County Mineral Club; Sportsman's Club, Nickerson Rd.; Contact William deLorraine, (315) 287-4652; e-mail: wdellie@northnet.org.
- August 25-26. Freeport, NY. Annual summer show; Village of Freeport; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4.50, children under 12 free with parent; Contact John Andersen, P.O. Box 551, North Bellmore, NY 11710, (516) 781-8410; e-mail: janders4@optonline.net.
- September 8-9. Cologne, NJ: Show; Cape Atlantic Rock Hounds; club house, Cologne Ave., Cologne Ave., between Rte.322 and the AC Expressway; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; Contact Dave Grace, 1504 W. Cleveland Ave., Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215, (609) 593-3270; e-mail: eli_Grace85@yahoo.com.
- September 8-9. New Milford, CT. 57th annual show; Danbury Mineralogical Society; New Milford High School, Danbury Rd.; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, seniors and full-time students with ID \$3, kids under 12 and scouts in uniform free; Contact Pat Hackett, 1 Lakeview Rd., New Milford, CT 06776; e-mail: prhackett@charter.net; Web site: www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org.
- September 8-9. North Adams, MA. Show; Northern Berkshire Mineral Club; VFW Hall, Rte. 2; adults \$2, children under 12 free with adult, group rate; Contact Marie Grande, 138 N. Summer St., Adams, MA 01220, (413) 743-9207.
- September 15. Albany, NH. Annual auction, show and swap; Saco Valley Mineral Club; Albany Town Hall, Rte. 16; Sat. 9-5; admission \$2; Contact Jonathon Herndon, P.O. Box 520, Center Ossipee, NH 03814-0520.

September 29-30. Concord, NH. 44th annual festival; Capital Mineral Club; Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, children under 12 free with adult; Contact Jonathan Herndon, P.O. Box 520, Center Ossipee, NH 03814-0520.

September 29-30. Franklin, NJ. 51st annual show; Franklin Mineral Museum; Franklin School, Washington Ave.; Contact Lee Lowell, (973) 827-6671.

Recent Club Trip

On a recent club field trip, I was observed collecting various fossils. This has led some members to the speculation I have left the light (or at least highly reflective) side of mineral collecting for the dark (or at least dull gray) side of fossil collecting.

As Mark Twain once remarked on reading his obituary, "The rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated".

True, from the Clarksville site I did bring home a 6" cephalopod, a trilo-butt [the back end of a trilobite], a leptaena, horn coral, syringopora, ctenodonta and a few things I haven't identified. But this is what anyone could collect at Clarksville.

The Gallupville site yielded a (more like a half dozen) plates of Tentaculites. These are small things that look like black ice cream cones. Don't ask me or any one else what these are. Even the experts do not agree. The first description called them spines from a sea urchin. Later various experts identified them as a small cephalopod, a kind of pelecypod, coelenterate, ostracod, pteropod, or annelid. Even today the experts do not know what species to put them in. The only thing they can say for sure is they lived in shallow seas and there were a lot of them.

The road cut above Schoharie did not yield fossils worth bringing home. There were plenty of pieces there but no whole fossils. The rock reminded me of a beach where the waves have ground up the shells into little bitty pieces. On turning over one rock, I did stir up a hornets nest, literally. Fortunately, no one was stung. This is just one of the hazards of rock hunting. I did bring home one small crystal filled pocket, which is probably a shell cast filled with quartz and calcite crystals.

Admittedly, the small slab {rough semi-circle shape, base 22", height 15" thickness 2", weight 54 pounds} of shells from Fox Creek is a little harder to explain away. However, the pure white 1" silica horn coral in black flint counts as a mineral.

I did resist the 12" coral head from Fox Creek in West Berne (mostly because I did not have my big bar to lift the slab it was in).

So, while I did bring home some critters, this just reflects the fact I enjoy getting out and hunting rather than any long term commitment to giving a home to ancient animals.

Bob Ballard

Gemstones and Minerals

Gemstone names do not always identify the mineral from which the gem is made into a faceted stones, cabochons, or polished beads. Of course, we all know that a Diamond is a Diamond and Topaz is Topaz, but do we know that Peridot is actually the mineral Olivine?

Chalcedony comes in many forms and gem names: Aventurine, Agate, Sard, Onyx, Jasper, Heliotrope, Carnelian, and Chryso-prase.

When you shop for a Ruby or a Sapphire are you always aware that these are the same mineral, Corundum? Citrine, Amethyst, Morion, Ametrine, Cairngorm, – they are all Quartz varieties.

Suppose someone handed you a Pleonast; would you know it is the gemstone Spinel? How about the mineral Chrysoberyl, cut it into a gem and it becomes Alexandrite. Diopside is marketed as the gem Chrome Diopside-same thing.

And think of the many gem names given to different types of Garnets: Tsavorite (Grossularite Garnet), Hessonite (Grossularite Garnet), Pyrope (Garnet), Uvarovite (Garnet), Almandine (Garnet), Demantoid Garnet (Andradite Garnet), Rhodolite (Almandine-Pyrope Garnet), Mandarin Garnet (Spessartine Garnet); it's enough to confuse anyone!

Rubellite (pink) and Indicolite (blue) are just two types of gems from the mineral Tourmaline.

Shop for the gems cut from the mineral Spodumene, and you're likely to be shown gems with names like Hiddenite or Kunzite; Beryl – you might want to narrow the field down or you will get to sort through the gems Aquamarine, Emerald, Red Beryl, Goshenite (clear), Morganite (pink), Heliodore, Green Beryl (not to be confused with Emerald), or Golden Beryl (amber/yellow).

If your significant other gives you Lazurite, it's that Lapis Lazuli you always wanted. Don't be disappointed if you get a piece of jewelry with the mineral Albite (a Feldspar) in it if Moonstone is your birthstone (Plagioclase, Orthoclase, and Microcline Feldspars are also sources of the gem Moonstone). Nephrite and Jadeite are both Jade.

So while you're out looking for gems remember, everything is not what it seems; that is, if you're a purist.

Richard Hartnett

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This is a large snapping turtle we "rescued" from the middle of the road on our field trip to Crown Point, NY. Note the tip of Bob Ballard's shoe as scale. The entire caravan stopped to save this turtle from certain demise by removing him from the center of a busy road. As we stared at the turtle and took pictures, he kept backing up in fear(?) and trying to bite us. The little guy then accidentally rolled himself off the embankment (about 10 feet down...gentle slope). He appeared to be fine as we looked down after him and saw that he had landed in water, but due to the size of his "fangs", none of us dared to go check on him. So much for saving him.

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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.

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