

# 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 2008*

## Next Meeting

There will be no meeting for August. Have a great summer! September's meeting will be a show and tell, so start going through your stuff to find your best specimen you found or bought this summer!

## Field Trips

(You must contact the field trip leader to attend these trips and they must answer you. You must arrive on time. If you are late and they are gone, you must go home.)

August 16-17, Gold Trip. Cancelled.

August 30. (Saturday). Minerva. Cancelled.

August 31 (Sunday). Curtis' Caving Adventure.

This informal outing to Natural Stone Bridge and Caves is going to be on Sunday August 31. Please note, we will not be doing any actual mineral collecting on this trip. We will be taking a guided tour (normally self-guided) through the caves and study the geology and mineralogy of the caves. I will also be giving a tour of our rock shop where there will be geode cutting and breaking as well as many interesting mineral specimens from all over the world. After taking lunch, I also plan to get a guided adventure tour in which we suit up in a coverall and pads with a helmet and light to explore deeper in some of the caves and into places where the common public cannot go. The cost for the tour is going to cost adults \$8.00 and children \$6.00, which is a deal compared to the normal \$12.50 for adults. For the more adventures, and non-claustrophobic, the adventure tour is

a little more pricey at \$30.00, but this is also a deal at half of the normal cost. I need to get a head-count on the adventure tour. Please be advised that there are small spaces, however they are for short periods. I really hope that all of you can make it to this outing. It is going to be a fun filled, exciting, and learning adventure. Stone Bridge is also very kid friendly so be sure to bring your whole family! If you would like any more information, you can call Curtis at (518)494-7538 or you can email me at [cfbreuer@yahoo.com](mailto:cfbreuer@yahoo.com).

Natural Stone Bridge & Caves  
535 Stone Bridge Road  
Pottersville, NY 12860

<http://www.stonebridgeandcaves.com/pictures> available online

Southbound: Take Northway I-87 to Exit 26. The Exit will lead you directly to Stone Bridge Road. Take a right at the end of the off ramp and proceed 2 miles to the entrance.

Northbound: Take Northway I-87 to Exit 26, and follow the signs to Rt 9 North. Continue on Route 9 North until you reach the intersection of Stone Bridge Road, and Rt. 9. Turn Left at the Large, Yellow Stone Bridge & Caves sign. Drive 2.5 miles to the entrance.

## Field Trip Reviews

Lafarge Ravena Quarry Trip Report- 7-13-08

When planning outdoor activities in the Capital district, don't rely on weather forecasts more

than 12 hours old. For most of the week prior to Sunday the 13th, the prognosticators had us enduring significant downpours. Well, 'twasnt so. Sunday started overcast, the sun arrived, and just when we thought it would be become a beautiful day, the overcast returned. Eventually we did endure several brief sprinkles and one brief shower. Just enough to wash some of the mud and dust off the boulders. As promised, Ran Tamir, General Manager, had arranged to have the floor blasted open in the area that has become one of our favorite collecting sites. Actually, they did two blasts. Material from the first was spread out for easy collecting, creating a new pit for anyone interested in searching deeper down. The second blast was performed on the Friday before our visit, and left as a mound with huge plates forming the outer layer - pretty much as expected. Unfortunately, most of these large plates were too thick for ordinary mortals to break down in the time we had available. However, crystal specimens, some of high quality, were recovered from mound. Some very nice pieces were found s short distance from the mound, and more was seen but too late to allow recovery. The area was marked so that heavy equipment needed to peel off the mound will not crush what has already been uncovered. In all, 26 people participated in the field trip - 20 adults and 6 children. In discussion with Mr. Tamir on Thursday, there was some thought whether perhaps the trip should be postponed - only 12 folks were expected at that time. A series of phone calls, and a reissue of the trip announcement by Anne Woods,



**One of the samples found. Picture taken by Bob Ballard.**

helped bring the count u p rapidly, Even so, we almost lost 7 members who were parked directly in front of Dunkin Donuts, and were unable to see around the corner of the building where everyone else was gathered. Note: the trip leader forgot his cell phone, so they were unable to make contact. Eventually we all got together.and had a fruitful day of collecting. Attendees: Richard Stein - leader, Stephen Harding, Ely Fuller, Carole Van Camp, Bob Kaufman, Sarah Harding, Ryan Sapienza, Joseph Van Camp, Kevin Baskin, Lori Harding, David Bollinger, Kyle Baskin, Mathew Harding, Adam Bollinger, Max Fischer, Bob Hartig, Julie Stuart, Bob Ballard, Curtis Breuer, Matt Stuart, Bob Stitham, Paul Breuer, Dan Stuart, George Gardianos, Jim Palmer, John Futerko.

*- Rich Stein*

#### PantherPond Labradorite Trip Report - 7-19-08.

On 19 July, Anne Woods and Noelle Guimond car pooled with me and we met Bob Kaufman at the Tupper Lake McDonald's. From there we proceeded to the Panther Pond collecting site. Labradorite is best collected on a sunny day by wetting the rock to see the schiller. This day, the sun played hide and seek with heavy clouds. We went from bright sun to 'is it raining, again?' The one comment I heard was 'bring a bucket to get water from Panther Pond'. For some reason, the collectors were not thrilled with the somewhat tea colored, slimy water I got from a wet pile of leaves. This location continues to produce some of



**Source of water for labradorite. Picture taken by Bob Ballard.**

the best labradorite I have seen. Large crystals, fist size to one foot, with blue, brown/golden and purple colors. Many pieces have a blue rim to a golden center. I think everyone was happy with the day. After the Panther Pond spot, we went to the falls on Boreas road, about 3 miles west of Exit 29. You can find spots of labradorite in the rocks here but after Panther Pond, no one collected any. The falls is a perfect spot to wade and cool off, well worth a stop on any collecting trip to the north country. Noelle was not thrilled to find a couple of Fishing spiders (2 inches long and hairy) where we were wading. In all, a good day collecting.

*-Bob Ballard*



Club T-shirts Available

The T-shirt Committee has produced a small amount of short sleeved XL gray T-shirts with the club logo on the front and the quote "I'd Rather Be Rockhounding" on the back. T-shirts are available for \$12 each for this batch from Anne Woods. First come, first served. Only cash (no credit card, no checks, no I owe you-s, etc.). I get cash in hand, you get T-shirt. When this lot is gone, the project will be renegotiated amongst the committee members. I will have a small supply with me on field trips throughout the summer.

### BBQ Rock Swap

The BBQ and Rock Swap Committee has scheduled a Rock Swap/BBQ for Saturday August 23, 2008 from 11am-?. We have invited the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Club to join us. It

will be held at the Lake Taghkanic State Park, 1528 State Route 82, Ancram NY 12502-9731. The cost to get into the day use area of the park is \$7.00 per carload. No pets are allowed. We will bring one spare grill and some charcoal. Please bring something to grill, something to share, and your own drinks. Since this is our first event from this committee, we don't have all the details square yet, so we are going to wing it. Hopefully this event will run smoothly and there will be more in the future. My cell-phone is 322-7932. Feel free to call it on the day of the event all day. If you need more information on this event, feel free to email me (Anne Woods) at: [schmanie@albanyrockclub.com](mailto:schmanie@albanyrockclub.com).

Directions: The park is located 11 miles south-east of Hudson in the town of Gallatin, NY. Passenger cars can access the park from the the Taconic State Parkway, one mile south of the Route 82 Hudson/Ancram exit. Visitors can also access the park from State Route 82, approximately two miles south of the hamlet of West Taghkanic. Large trucks, RV's and campers can enter the park from the State Route 82 entrance. Park Number: 518-851-3631

### 2008 EFTA Trips

*Contact Trip Leaders if you want to attend trips*

*August 16-17. Rochester Academy of Science Mineral Section. Lewis & St. Lawrence Counties for albite, calcite, diopside, fluorapatite, talc, titanite, unakite, uvite, wollastonite. No facilities. Limit 10 EFTA. Contact mineral-trips@rasny.org for more details.*

*August 16. Mid-Hudson Gem and Mineral. Ilion, NY...fluorescent & phosphorescent travertines. No age restriction. No facilities. Contact Carolyn Reynard at [sunstone3@hvc.rr.com](mailto:sunstone3@hvc.rr.com) for directions and further instructions.*

*August 23. St. Lawrence County Gem and Mineral...Bowers Powers Farm for Uvite, quartz, apatite. Meet at St. Lawrence County Gem and Mineral Show, Canton Sportsman Club, Gouverneur, NY at 9am to sign up. Contact Bill at [wdellie@northnet.org](mailto:wdellie@northnet.org).*

*August 26. Wayne County Gem & Min. Club...*

*Gore Mt.- Barton Mine, NY for Gore Mt. garnet. Group taken in - pay by the lb of what you take. Contact Bill at batnpill@empacc.net or 607-868-4649.*

## Mineral Shows

August 8-10. West Springfield, MA East Coast show; Martin Zinn Expositions; Better Living Center, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Dr.; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, 12 and under free with adult; parking \$5, more than 200 U.S. and foreign dealers, Contact Regina Aumente, Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com

August 23-24. Canton, NY. Show; St. Lawrence Co. Rock & Mineral Club; Canton Sportsman's Club, Nickerson Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; field trips, fluorescent mineral hunt; Contact William deLorraine, 1 Indian Head Trail, Gouverneur, NY 13642, (315) 287-4652; e-mail: wdellie@northnet.org; Web site: www.stlawrenceco.com

August 23-24. Freeport, NY. Show, "Freeport Gem & Mineral Show"; Village of Freeport; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children under 12 free; Contact Ralph Gose, P.O. Box 1418, Melville, NY 11747, (631) 271-8411; e-mail: kaleidoscopegemshows@yahoo.com

September 6-7. New Milford, CT. 58th annual show; Danbury Mineralogical Society; New Milford High School, Danbury Rd.; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-4:30; adults \$4.50, seniors and full-time students with ID \$3, kids under 12 and scouts in uniform free; Contact Pat Hackett, (860) 355-9799; e-mail: prhackett@charter.net; Web site: www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org

September 6-7. Pownall, VT. Annual show; Northern Berkshire Mineral Club; American Legion Post #90, Rte. 7; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, children under 12 accompanied by adult free, Contact Cindy Hancock, 45 Spring St. Apt. 103, North Adams, MA 01247, (413) 664-4115

September 20. Albany, NH. Show; Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Tin Mountain Center, Bald Hill Rd.; Contact Jonathon Herndon, P.O. Box 520, Center Ossipee, NH 03814-0520

September 20-21. Rhinebeck, NY. 39th annual show and sale, "The Earth's Bounty"; Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rte. 9; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$4, students \$2, children 12 and under free with adult, discount flier on Web site; Con-

tact Carolyn Reynard, (845) 471-1224; Web site: www.geocities.com/nyrockhounds  
September 26-27. Franklin, NJ. 52nd annual show; Franklin Mineral Museum; Franklin School, Washington Ave.; contact Lee Lowell, (973) 827-6671.  
October 18-19. Johnstown, NY. Show and sale; Fulton County Mineral Club; Johnstown Moose Lodge, Rte. 30A and Rte. 67; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, students \$1, children under 12 free; Contact Chamber of Commerce, (800) 676-3858; e-mail: pllenroc@frontiernet.net

## Saint Lawrence Cement Quarry Pictures



GILSUM PICTURES



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<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.