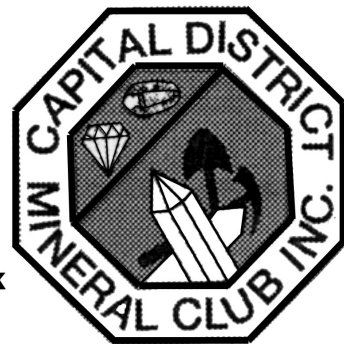


THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



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

August 2005

Meeting Reminder

a dryer time. - Bob Ballard

Please remember that there is no meeting at the museum for the month August. The next meeting will be on September 8th. Please note that for this time only, the September meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month because of Labor Day weekend.

Field Trip Review

Please note that you must make reservations with trip leaders ahead of time if you plan on attending a trip. Also please arrive at the location when specified. Most trip leaders will not wait for you, and it is not fair to the other field-trippers to ask them to.

July 3, 2005. Unusual Field Trip. Held at 67 Hite Court from 1Pm to 5Pm. Present for all or part of the time providing identification, etc was Richard Stein, Bob Ballard made off with a flat of amethyst; Amy Sternstein ended up with a flat or two of fossils and miscellaneous minerals; Elaine and Robert Royer made several purchases; Kathleen Fama and her two children (Christopher and Madison) found some treasures as well as Art Collins. After great bargaining the club netted sixty dollars for the treasury and everyone ended up at the Gearhardt's secret dump site and made off with an equal number of mystery minerals to match the number purchased. Bob Ballard took home a flat or two the the mineral to: identify and keep to the monthly raffles in the Fall at the club meetings. George and Barbara were happy to see some of Charlie Brown's donated mineral leave their garage (and dump site) and mentioned that only three plastic cartons remain (each with five or six cartons of mystery minerals) and two pails of other stuff (rose quartz and thompsonsite). May hold another sometime in September. - George Gearhardt

July 9, 2005. Minerva, NY. Due to the expected arrival of Cindy [the tropical storm] this trip was cancelled. With all the rain and expected rain, the Boreas river will be very high. Part of the trip is to collect on the banks of the river. That would be very dangerous. I also do not know if the road even exists yet due to all the rain in the area. I will re-schedule for

July 23, 2005. Mudslide/Flood Exploration Trip. On 23 July, Bob Ballard led a two-part field trip to the north country to see the effects of the recent mudslide and flooding, and to see if any minerals worth collecting were exposed. Anne Woods, Melana Maracchion and Bob Stitham joined him on the trip.

We met at the McD's at Warrensburg at Exit 23 of I-87. We piled into Bob Ballard's car and found [after a few false leads, (with Anne navigating and Bob Ballard driving, a normal start to the trip)] the mudslide just south of Exit 24. We parked at the mudslide just below the Northway. It was very nice of the highway department to provide a culvert under the Northway so we could walk to the site. The culvert was even big enough for two of us to walk upright.

The mudslide was impressive. Above the road, we stood in a 30 foot deep, maybe 70 foot wide bowl carved out by the water. Moved by gravity, all that mud and rock easily took out the Northway below it. Even standing there, it was hard to imagine the volume of water it took to move that much rock and mud. Bob Ballard wishes he could have seen the slide when it happened. Anne was attempting to see it in her mind.

We noted there was no bedrock in the washout! It seems that the whole hill is just rocks and claylike mud. Bob Ballard might get his wish to come true if he was in the area when the same kind of storm and conditions happened again.

We found hardly any minerals worth collecting. Gravel picking is fun but one does not find a lot of stuff to bring home. Bob Ballard did score a third of a roll of ducktape and a good set of work gloves in the culvert. The lower part of the washout was stabilized with large pieces of garnet rock. There were some small pockets of pink pegmatite in this fill rock which may yield some nice crystals. It would be fun to visit the quarry that the fill came from.

Then, as a second part of the trip, we drove over the site of the

Hadlock Pond Dam failure near Fort Ann, NY. Rt 149 was still closed and they were working hard to re-open the road, so a bunch of crazy rockhounds wanting to see the washout were not especially welcome, but we got permission from the road crew at one spot and from the state police at the second spot to see the first of the three washouts.

Bob Ballard thought the Northway slide was impressive. He thought the dam failure was beyond impressive. The rock was shredded! Big angular pieces of rock, sharp gravel, pieces of cars and houses etc. One place where the water hit a bank, you could see the bedrock was torn out in big chunks.

We drove toward the dam, stopping where we could see the water path. More pulverized rock. The sign "bridge closed" was wrong. There wasn't any bridge to close or even see where it had been. One house was almost knocked off its foundation, and one was collapsed. The local people were a little touchy about tourists, so we didn't stay long at any one spot.

You can't get to the dam. A new chain link fence, complete with barbed wire, and a shiny new sign stating "Absolutely No Trespassing, Town of Fort Anne" told us all we needed to know.

The drained lake was also impressive. The grass is beginning to grow on the mud flats. Anne and Bob Stitham have pictures that hopefully they will bring to a club meeting.

Again, nothing to collect but I think we all had a very interesting field trip. Rt 149 opened an hour or so after we left. - Bob Ballard

August Field Trips

August 15-19. Garnet Mine Scientific Tour. Field trip leader Bob Ballard can be contacted if you are interested. Date not set yet. (rballad@nycap.rr.com)

August 20, 2005. Hooper Garnet Mine. Meet at Exit 23 Warrensburg, NY on the Northway at the McDonalds at 10am. Field trip leader Gerry Boileau can be contacted at: 518-482-0511 to secure a spot. No food, water or comfort facilities available at the site. Materials to collect are flattened garnet crystals and pieces of garnet. All hard rock mining tools should be brought here. Some garnets loose in rock, but most have to be worked on to get. Bug spray should be brought just in case. Not sure if the black flies are still around, but the mosquitoes are still evil in some places.

August 27, 2005. Wild Ammonoosuc River Gold Search. Call Bob Ballard at 518-377-8656 (rballad@nycap.rr.com) or Jim

Palmer at 518-399-9090 (palmite@nycap.rr.com) to secure a spot. Participants will drive 4 hours to secret location in Vermont where they will pan for gold. Please bring goldpan, wading shoes/shorts/bathingsuit, bug spray, sunscreen, etc. No facilities.

Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Field Trip Itinerary

Contact Bob Hartig if you want to attend trips: 518-842-594

July 31, 2005. North Shore Rock and Mineral Club. Swiftwater New Hampshire. Wild Ammonoosuc gold panning. Contact Joe Grace at boyntotl@comcast.net for further information.

Aug. 20, 2005. Worcester Mineral Club. VAG Mine. Eden Mills, VT. Vesuvianite, garnet, diopside, and serpentine, <<http://worceststermineralclub.org>> or delsjohn@aol.com.

Aug. 27, 2005. St. Law. Co. Rock and Mineral Club. Powers Farm for the black tourmaline. Contact Bill or JoAnna deLorraine at wdellie@verizon.net.

Aug. 27-28, 2005. Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Eden Mills, VT (Belvedere Mtn. Mines) aka Vermont Asbestos Group- Over 60 different mineral species (see midat.org) especially gemmy grossular garnets, actinolite, clinozoisite, epidote, vesuvianite etc. Gates open at 8AM- Small fee (\$5) may be required to offset entrance charge to our club. Contact Bob York at quartzhunter@aol.com for more details.

Sept. 10, 2005. Fulton County. Tentative. Crystal Grove, St. Johnsville, NY. Herkimer Diamonds & calcite xls. Possible swap and dig. Camping available. See <<http://www.crystalgrove.com>> for more info. \$7 a day dig fee.

Sept. 25, 2005. Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hurricane Mountain, Bartlett, NH.- smoky quartz, feldspar, amethyst, zircon, arfvedsonite (one of the few U.S. locations) Meet at Scenic Rest Area-Intervale, NH at 8AM.

Oct. 2, 2005. Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Moat Mountain, Albany, NH- Smoky quartz, microcline, danalite, fluorite, topaz. Meet at National Forest Mineral Parking area for Moat Mtn. at 8AM directions (including name & phone number of trip leader) will be posted on the SVG&M club website.

August 2005 Show Announcements

July 30-31. South Burlington, VT. 26th annual show; Burlington Gem & Mineral Club; Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset St.; Sat.-Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors and ages 6-16 \$2, children under 6 free with adult; Contact Steve Howe, (802) 656-4118; Website: www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org.

August 6. Morristown, NJ. 10th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Sale; Saturday only; 9-5pm. Morris Museum Mineralogical Society; Delbarton School; Free admission/parking. Contact: John Sanfacon (973)267-2839.

August 6-7. Waterville, Maine. 35th annual show; Water-Oak Gem & Mineral Society; Mount Merci School, 152 Western Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; Contact Ellery Borow, P.O. Box 47, Waterville, ME 04903-0047, (207) 547-3154.

August 12-14. West Springfield, MA. Show, "East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show" Martin Zinn Expositions; Eastern States Exposition, Better Living Center, 1305 Memorial Ave., 1 mile west of I-91; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults

\$5 per day, children under 12 free; 200 retail and wholesale dealers, 53 displays from the Harvard Mineralogical Museum, parking \$5 per day; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 999, Evergreen, CO 80437; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com; www.mzexpos.com.

August 19-21. Lebanon, PA. 8th annual retail and wholesale show, "Gem Miner's Jubilee" Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association; Lebanon Co. Fairgrounds; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; admission \$5; Contact Marvin Schwab, (301) 565-0487; Website: www.gem-show.com.

August 27-28. Canton, NY. 39th Annual Gem & Mineral Show & Swap 2005; Free to the public; St. Lawrence Co. Rock and Mineral Club; Canton Sportsman's Club near US11; Contact: William deLorraine, 1 Indian Head Trail, Gouverneur, NY 13642; (315)287-4652; Wdellie@nothnet.org

August 27-28. Freeport (Long Island), NY. Annual summer show; Village of Freeport Recreation and Parks Dept.; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, children under 12 free with parent; dealers, exhibits, prizes; contact J. Anderson, P.O. Box 551, N. Bellmore, NY 11710, (516) 781-8410.

Request

George Gearhardt got a phone call from some guy in Virginia who has a museum and looking for "staurolites" from as many different places as possible. He mentioned Roxbury, CT and the guy mentioned Maine and Canada as sources. He asked if we could put an announcement in the newsletter concerning his quest. His website: < www.stonecrossmountain.com >.

Gilsum Show Hot!

by Don Kauffman

This year's 41st Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show was hot. That is sales were hot and not just due to high temperatures and dry weather. In fact, in the past three years, the show has proved to be most successful when the temperatures soared.

As show dealers, we rate Gilsum as a "best of shows" for sales and participation. This year has seen an exceptional increase in show sales and attendance records for clubs in Delaware and nearby Philadelphia. We certainly hope the trend continues into fall for the Harrisburg show. But Gilsum holds a special place on our agenda.

First and foremost, Gilsum is a community enterprise and not club oriented. For us it is business as well as a vacation break. For me, at least, Gilsum peaks a celebration of summer and a pause in mineral show participation until fall. Gilsum is a gauge of dealer success and also a unique demonstration as to how a well functioning annual show operates. Gilsum is the only show of its kind. Gilsum is a homey outdoor community supported venture. Each year you can return to it and see what your efforts and participation have accomplished.

The success of Gilsum can be sensed by end of day one. Hot and dry or cool and rainy, real rockhounds appear and make day one a success. After day one of a show, day two is additional pocket money. Believing that matching the two-day table fee is what can make or break any dealer, we try to greet every potential customer and make every possible sale on day one. Gilsum has justified that belief, at least for us; rocks and minerals fascinate visitors. Sales usually come easy.

This year we were once again successful in selling a variety of rocks, minerals and Linda's fine hand assembled jewelry. It was not only the best show, of any, we ever had but also the highest grossing sales over our best in Gilsum two years back. The 40-04 Anniversary show of last year could have been a real winner if steady drizzle had not caused a delay in arrival of those faithful rockhounds until midmorning of day one. The Gilsum show goes on in all winds and weather, and those seekers of fine self-collected minerals do appear. The key to many a fortuitous sale is having a varied assemblage of rocks and minerals one year to the next.

This year the reliable rockhounds were out in force. Richard Stein came over from Albany. Marilyn and Lee Tori surprised us by coming up from Philadelphia area. The curator of Pennsylvania Bryn Mar College mineral museum stopped by our space. My friend from Keene State College, Dr. Steve Bill stopped and made some nice selections.

As in any mineral show, kids are very important at Gilsum. Their enthusiasm pulls Mom and Dad along as eager youth rush head long from dealer to dealer. Bigger than an Easter egg hunt, the kids look for free mineral and rock specimens. They are the future and perpetuation of our hobby. Hopefully we will see many of these children return as grown-ups with a continuing interest earth science.

Although final estimates are not in from show committee chairman Rob Mitchell, our success can only prove to be aftermath of another great show staged by this small community of 800. Last year's attendance figures were between five and eight thousand patrons. Success breeds success and there is not doubt as to how well we did this year.

Gilsum is indeed a hot show that is moving like molten magma from success to success. We are thankful that we can be a part of it.

I'm already looking forward to rock Gilsum in 2006.

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Barbara Gearhardt
George Gearhardt
Don Kauffman

Website:

<www.albanyrockclub.com>
check the update section regularly

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.