

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

FEBRUARY 2003

February Meeting

The February meeting of the Capital District Mineral Club will be on Thursday, February 6, 2003 at the New York State Museum on Madison Avenue, Albany, New York. The doors open at 7:00 PM and the meeting will begin at 7:30. Please be there between 7:00 and 7:15 as we have special museum staff to let us in during that time period.

February Program

Our speaker for February will be Dr. John Delano, who has been a very popular speaker at our meetings. Dr. Delano is a Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the State University, Albany. His professional experiences include: Associate Director for NASA Center for the Studies on the Original Life (1998-2002) along with RPI, NASA Investigator Planetary Materials and Geochemistry programs, 1984-1999. He is also the author of over 43 referred scientific publications and 127 abstracts. His topic will be "Ages of impact glasses from the Moon. Information on the early bombardment history of the Earth/Moon system". The talk will be illustrated with overhead transparencies and feature some of the latest data collected.

January Meeting

The program for January was a video, "Riches from the Rock", Early Mining Days in Bisbee, Arizona. Great Mines are made, not found. From the close of the Indian Wars through the First

World War, Bisbee, Arizona grew from obscurity to become one of the West's greatest mining centers.

Mike Hawkins brought posters to the meeting to be distributed throughout the Capital District regarding the February 22-23, 2003 show. More posters will be available at the February meeting. Also \$1 off coupons will available for you to distribute.

Museum Show Committee

There will be another meeting of the Show Committee on January 30, 2003 at the home of the Gearhardts at 67 Hite Court, Schenectady (518-355-0670). This is to finalize all details as to who is working when, etc. All club members are welcome to attend. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

GeoDays Need for Fossils, Minerals and Rocks

Bruce Murray
Show Committee Chair

Bring me your tired fossils, your poor rocks, your huddled minerals yearning to be free. Seriously, Folks, the Club is running low on materials to put in the sandbox for the kids to dig up on GeoDays. Please bring your bagged or boxed minerals, etc. to George and Barbara Gearhardt at the 7:00 PM rock meeting February 6, 2003. Large specimens should be made small by the hammer method. Please call the Gearhardts at 355-0670 and tell

them what you are bringing so they can plan for the load in their car.

Volunteers Needed

At the January meeting Bruce Murray, Chairman of the Mineral Show Committee, named the people who had signed up to work as volunteers for the February Show and asked if anyone else was willing to volunteer. We are still looking for more volunteers. If you haven't had a chance to sign-up, you can do so at the February meeting or you can call Bruce at 355-2146. A copy of the current roster is attached.

Happy Mineral New Year!!

From Don & Linda Kauffman

New Year should be especially exciting for all of us who are in mineral collecting. We can look forward to new friends, mineral discoveries, and a multitude of mineral show exhibitions in every part of our country.

Many of our dealer friends set their sights on the world renowned show in Tucson, Arizona. This year the famed February extravaganza has chosen the theme, "Minerals of the Andes". The range of minerals on display will go from quartz and calcite rare szenicscite, gem emeralds, and ametrines, crystallized sulfides and other minerals.

From what we have been told, it is like a World's Fair gathering of collectors, dealers and tailgates from all over the North American continent and the world. We have never been to Tucson, but our dealer friends say it is so large that your first experience is scary. Maybe sometime we will make the trip.

For us the Winter doldrums and post-Christmas blues are chased aside by a rip to Albany, New York during the third weekend in February. We have been fortunate to make that trip every year since 1994. By now we can navigate around New

York's capital city as well as the residents.

To get the most for your dollar, we recommend going for a two or three day weekend. Get accommodations for Friday night or Saturday, but be certain to be at the James Campbell Memorial Show and Sale on day one, Saturday. If you are experienced in attending any mineral show, you must surely know that the first day will offer best selection. Don't wait for show discount on Sunday because a show of this quality usually has stable and fair prices for the duration.

Once at the New York State Museum, the Empire Plaza, you may well spend a whole day looking, shopping, and talking. There are exhibits, dealers, a table to purchase NY State Geological publications, informative lectures, and personnel to identify fossils and minerals. You also have a chance to buy specimens formerly owned by the Museum.

Even in the midst of winter there are a lot of activities in the area above and below Albany. Drive an hour north to Lake George and you can enjoy a Winter Carnival. Walk across the frozen lake or watch snowmobile racing on the same lake.

You may want to start that outing with a hearty breakfast at Steve's Place in Glens Falls. Later you can eat Mexican food at Carl R's in the town of Queensbury or if Italian is your choice, nearby is Olive Garden. If you like to ski, you can go north of Lake George or back down south below Albany to find plenty of skiing.

If you don't want to brave the frigid outdoors, spend half a day or whole day in the New York State Museum. The lobby has a wonderful baby mastodon skeleton from nearby Cohoes. There is also a fantastic Mineral Gallery with a display of New York minerals as well as North American and Worldwide specimens.

First things first. If you take a trip to Albany, don't miss the James Campbell Mineral Show. If you live

in Albany or the surrounding areas, go to the show. Take it from a well-traveled couple of rockhounds, you don't want to miss this show. You will want to go back again and again.

Speakers Needed

The Program Committee is requesting volunteers to prepare a program for a monthly meeting. Let us know the topic and any or all visual aids needed. Or perhaps you know of someone who would be a good speaker for one of our meetings. You can contact George Gearhardt at 518-355-0670 or ggear@atecone.net.

Trivia Question

Lapidary Journal
February 2003

Q: Name the state gemstone of Florida.

A: We found that Florida's gemstone isn't Tampa Bay Agatized coral but is "moonstone," which is strange since moonstone isn't found in Florida. Upon further investigation, we determined that since NASA is located in Florida the state gemstone is named for the rocks brought back from the Moon missions rather than traditional moonstone. This must be the strangest gemstone of any state or nation - in fact, it's out of this world!

Collector Wants to Trade

George Gearhardt

We have received e-mail from a collector in North Carolina regarding trading self-collected (not purchased) specimens. I have a list from him of the items he would like to trade. If you are interested, contact me and I will provide the list and we can plan our response. We have done this in the past with some success. If you would like to contact him directly, you can reach him at wwalljr@triad.rr.com

Safety Alert:

Be Careful Out There!

From Robert W. Carroll, Editor, Chat Box
Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society,
MWF
Via The Skin-Skiner News Jan. 2003

I had a wreck a couple of weeks ago and totaled our Lincoln Town Car. I hydroplaned on Hwy 135 between Gladewater & Kilgore, Texas. I was not hurt, just emotionally rattled! I know the Lord was with me. I learned a lesson I'd like to pass on to you. You may know this already - but the highway patrolman told me that you should NEVER drive in the rain with your cruise control on. He said if you did and hydroplaned (which I did) that when your tires were off the road your car would accelerate to a high rate of speed (which it did). You don't have much, if any control when your hydroplane, but you are totally in the hands of God when the car accelerates. I took off like I was in an airplane.

I'm so thankful I made it through that ordeal. Please pass the word around about not using cruise control when the pavement is wet or icy. The highway patrolman said this should be on the sunvisor with the warning about air bags.

The only person I've found out who knew this (besides the patrolman) was a man who had a similar accident and totaled his car. This has made me wonder if this is not why so many of our young people are dying in accidents. Be careful out there!

Upcoming Shows

Feb. 22-23 - 10th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show & Sale co-sponsored by the NY State Museum and the Capital District Mineral Club at the New York State Museum, Madison Avenue, Albany, NY.
Hours: 10-5 both days.

Mar. 1-2 - 2003 New York City Gem & Mineral

Show hosted by the New York Mineralogical Club, Holiday Inn, 440 57th Street (9th Avenue), New York, NY. Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5.

Mar. 1-2 - Delaware Mineralogical Society, In. 40th Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show, Waterfall Banquet and Conference Center (formerly Brandywine Terrace), 3416 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, DE. Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 11-5.

Mar. 1-2 - The Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central CT. presents Gem & Mineral Show, Maloney High School, Gravel Street, Meriden Connecticut. Hours: Sat. 9:30-5; Sun. 10-4.

Mar. 8-9 - New Jersey, Clifton Gem & Mineral Show, sponsored by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society, Pope John Paul II Elementary School, 775 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ. Hours: 10-5 both days.

Mar. 22-23 - 34th Annual Gem and Mineral Show presented by Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc., Athens Township Vol. Fire Hall, Herrick Ave., Sayre, PA. Hours: Sat. 9-6; Sun. 10-5.

Field Trip Committee

Paul Van Schaick, Vice President and Chairman of the Field Trip Committee, announced the first meeting of the committee to be held on Thursday, February 13, 2003. It will be held at the Gearhardt's home at 67 E. Hite Court in Guilderland. Any club member may join the committee and call the Gearhardts at 518-355-0670 for directions. The meeting will start at 7:30 PM. Bring all suggestions for field trips (new and old) and a tentative schedule will be prepared for the April 3rd monthly meeting. As usual, trips can be added or deleted at necessary.

Trustee's Meeting

Sixteen members of the Board of Trustees met at the Gateway Diner for its January meeting on

January 23, 2003.

1. Bob Ballard was elected to be Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
2. New line items were approved for the budget. President Mark Kilmer will mail a completed budget to trustees in the near future. Included are funds for the possible re-establishment of the "Rock Puppies" portion of club activities.
3. A committee will be appointed by the president to determine how many colleges in the Capital District have graduate programs in their geology departments. The scholarship committee will then present the results and each year the award will be rotated among the colleges on the list.
4. A lively discussion of how the auction proceeds will be handled followed. In the past it was 80%-20% (80% going to donor, 20% to club), then 70-30 and last year was 50-50. Many thought the auction is a fund raiser for the club treasury and the final vote was 100% to the treasury. The quality of the items donated as well as the amount raised will then be considered at the end of one year.
5. Amendments to the By-Laws were the final item brought before the board. In an attempt to add continuity in office the following items were accepted.

Article II

Section 1 The term of office for the President is amended to read: "he or she may be eligible for two one year terms".

Section 2 The term of office for the Vice President amended to "he or she may be eligible for two one year terms."

Section 3 The term of office for the Secretary shall be one (1) year; there is no limit to the terms of office for the Secretary.

Section 4 The term of office for the Treasurer shall be one (1) year; there is no limit to the terms of office for the Treasurer.

A vote by the general membership of the club will take place in thirty days after publication in the newsletter. That means the March 6th meeting.