

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

February 2006

February Meeting

The February meeting of the Capital District Mineral Club will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2006 (groundhog day). We will meet in Meeting Room B on the concourse level of the New York State Museum, Madison Ave., Albany, NY (unless otherwise noted at the front security desk). Please sign in and out at the security desk. The museum doors will be open from 7:00-7:15pm and the meeting will begin around 7:30pm. Please be on time since after 7:15pm, we will no longer let you in.

February Program

Bruce Murray will be presenting a program titled "Basic Identification of Minerals". This program is designed to help rockhounds identify several minerals which they may encounter in the field. Bruce will show us the materials that members should carry in the field to help identify unknown minerals they encounter. For the laboratory portion of this lecture, a box of unknown minerals, four known minerals, and a flow chart will be given to groups of two or more persons who will work together to identify the unknown minerals. Bruce will then explain how the flowchart and the identification process works, and give an example of how to do it using the chart. Bruce will be on hand if any questions should arise.

Dues Are Due

If your friend has renewed and they did not receive a newsletter, have them call George Gearhardt (355-0670) immediately.

Trustees Meeting

Chairman Bob Ballard held the required annual trustee meeting on Saturday January 14, 2006. Many people attended. The tentative budget for 2006 was discussed and well as the revised version of the bylaws which appear in this issue for your perusal. The bylaws new version will be voted on at the March 2006 meeting.

Show Committee

Anyone wishing to volunteer for our club at the mineral show should contact us via the club website which can be found on the back of this newsletter.

New Elections

All votes are in, and the new officers have been announced. President Paul Van Schaick will stay in office. Anne Woods is the new Vice President. Helen Eckler will remain the secretary. Ruth Schmidt has stepped down as treasurer. And Robert Stitham will take her place as treasurer following a few technical delays.

Electronic Newsletter

Please consider switching over to an electronic newsletter. Once again, interested participants should contact George Gearhardt or Anne Woods at schmanie@albanyrockclub.com.

This Just In

Many Facets Rock Shop on New Karner Road in Albany, NY has officially closed its doors. It was bought out by people planning to sell rocks via a website.

Finding Rocks and Fossils Between Hard Places: a Look Back on 2005

by Don Kauffman

Looking back on 2005, we may note a year of geological-environmental fear and terror. We were constantly reminded that living on earth is a struggle against forces difficult to predict and patently impossible to control.

Between hard realities of earth living there were, simultaneously, discoveries of great geological and paleontological interest. This is a review of events club members may have

missed because of tumultuous events splashed across newspapers and television feeds.

In January, as we witnessed aftermath of the recent Asian tsunami, an amateur fossil hunter from Maryland announced existence of what are believed to be first ever tracks of a plant-eating dinosaur. This species, *Hypsilophodon*, was previously known only to early Cretaceous Montana and England.

In February as post tsunami tremblers were recorded globally and heavy rains in California launched mudslides, construction workers in a Denver suburb uncovered an ancient settlement once inhabited by nomadic hunters. A very concerned location superintendent, fearing recent vandalism might threaten valued artifacts took action to secure the site. He then called experts to evaluate the discovery. These efforts ensured archaeologists would be able to study “a time period about which they know relatively little”.

June launched into what would be a summer of prolonged heat. At this time a calcite formation in New Mexico referred to as “Snowy River” was announced by a Colorado-based speleologist. This two-mile long white cavern passage is touted to be the “largest continuous calcite formation in the world”. Scientists had kept a lid of secrecy on the site so the delicate cave environment could be evaluated.

In July one of our British cousins declared a quarry in Wales the “exact source” for stones used to build famous Stone Henge. He failed to offer explanation as to why a “family” of Welshmen may have attempted to “carry” stones from southwestern Wales to famed Salisbury Plain.

In September after hurricane Katrina, it appeared to rain mastodon and mammoth teeth in Illinois. A museum paleontologist reported that nearly half a dozen people had found tusks or teeth of those 10,000 year-old ancestors to our modern pachyderms. Discovery of so many teeth in an area once inhabited by giants of the last Ice Age was attributed to effects of summer drought on evaporating local wetlands.

Another mid-west find, a collector announced finding a 1,400-pound “cone-shaped” meteorite buried in southern Kansas. Experts said it might be part of a large meteorite that exploded and scattered several tons of fragments centuries ago.

During wet, soggy October an Alien-like nightmarish toothy marine animal surfaced in online news. Scientists in Texas described a new Jurassic age creature with an extended snout full of long ripping, jagged teeth. Appearing to be the length of a small car with “paddle-like limbs” instead of land legs and a “fish-like” navigating tail this sea-going crocodile-like creature called *Dakosaurus* could have given Jaws a run for his money.

Nipping closely the tale of *Dakosaurus*, an amateur Texas fossil hunter reported final scientific confirmation of a discovery he had made in 1989. His find of a completely preserved *mosasaur* was recognized as an early evolutionary species with what were described as “small feet and hands” which later became developed paddles. Previously this animal with transitional limbs had only been found in lands of the Middle East.

November reports noted dinosaurs might have eaten grass. What’s so special about this? Whereas most of us are aware of plant eating dinos, scientists delving into coprolite have traced botanical grass evolution as far back as about 70 million years. This discovery was made in central India and may set a standard for grazing sauropods on that continent.

Also in November, volunteers with North Dakota’s Geological Survey revealed finding a complete skull and lower jaw providing a picture of a small 30-million year old miniature mountain lion having 1 ½ inch-long canine teeth. The remains of this saber-toothed cat were found in an area described as an ancient pond.

Fear bugs? Then fear this. A scientist in Scotland’s far north opened December announcing the finding of tracks left by a giant, six-legged water scorpion. A huge bug described as being five feet long and three feet wide left little doubt that at one time it gained enough limb strength to “drag” itself out of a watery environment. We have yet to see a picture of this giant but it would take a “really big shoe” to squash one such Bugzilla.

And speaking of shoes, it now appears our most famous flying fossil may have had little dino feet. Some Washington (DC?) scientist has been retro-examining our old friend, *Archaeopteryx*. He has concluded paleontology’s first bird may have had dinosaur-like feet. Actual controversy is as to whether this feathered fossil had a reversed toe that would allow it to perch like its present day ancestors. Thank goodness dinosaurs didn’t fly!

This year we are notably devoid of rock and mineral discoveries. This is most likely due to some human self-centered curiosity as to past civilizations, birds or behemoths.

Those of us who are willing to look beneath our feet and take interest in places of rock and crystalline beauty will read our newsletters, attend our meetings and then share our own discoveries of rocks and fossils between hard places of life.

Upcoming Mineral Shows

February 1- February 28, 2006. Quartzite, AZ: 6th annual show, “Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Show” 1055 Khuen Blvd.; 125 to 200 dealers from around the world, rocks, rough, slabs, cabs, jewelry, beads, fossils, rough and cut

stones, crystals, silver, equipment, lapidary supplies; contact Sandra McAllister, P.O. Box 2818, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: dggemshow@ureach.com.

January 28-February 11, 2006. Tucson, AZ: Show, "Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show" Martin Zinn Expositions; The InnSuites Hotel, 475 N. Granada; The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N. Oracle Rd.; Clarion Hotel-Randolph Park, 102 N. Alvernon Wy.; Smuggler's Inn, 6350 E. Speedway; Ramada Inn Limited, 665 N. Freeway; 10-6 daily, Sun. 10-5; free admission; Contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, fax (505) 867-0073; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com.

January 28- February 11, 2006. Tucson, AZ: Show; AKS Gem Shows; Howard Johnson, 1010 S. Freeway (I-10 and Starr Pass Blvd.); La Quinta, 750 W. Starr Pass Blvd. (I-10 and Starr Pass Blvd.); 10-7 daily; contact Kay Schabilion, P.O. Box 24552, New Orleans, LA 70184, (504) 455-6101; Web site: www.aksshow.com.

January 31-February 6, 2006. Tucson, AZ: Show; The Bead Renaissance Shows; 3340 E. Michigan, next to the Holidome; Tue. 10-6, Wed. 12-9, Thu. 12-9, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6, Mon. 10-6; free admission; Contact J&J Promotions, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (505) 894-1293; e-mail: info@beadshow.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com.

February 25-26, 2006. Albany, NY: 13th annual show and sale, "James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale" New York State Academy of Mineralogy, Capital District Mineral Club; 4th floor, New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; admission \$5; includes the New York in Bloom Flower Show; Contact Mike Hawkins, (518) 486-2011 or (518) 473-7154; e-mail: mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov.



SAWING OUT CRYSTALS AT WALWORTH, NY.



WHO ARE WE? BETCHYA CAN'T GUESS...

PUBLICATIONS

Saturday and Sunday
February 25 & 26, 2006
10AM - 5 PM

at the
NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
EMPIRE STATE PLAZA
ALBANY, NY
INFORMATION: 518-474-5877

13th ANNUAL
JAMES CAMPBELL MEMORIAL

GEM,
MINERAL,
AND
FOSSIL
SHOW
& SALE

JEWELRY

LECTURES

MINERAL AND FOSSIL IDENTIFICATION

GUIDED MUSEUM TOURS

Co-sponsored by the
Capital District Mineral Club and the
New York Academy of Mineralogy

The New York State Museum is a program of The University of the State of New York-The State Education Department

Capital District Mineral Club Bylaws

Article I -- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Club shall consist of Charter Members and Regular Members who may affiliate with the Club after the limitations of Charter Membership have expired.

Section 2. Those members who shall have attended three (3) meetings of the Club prior to the ratification of the Constitution shall be designated Charter Members.

Section 3. Applications for membership shall be made in person or by letter to the Membership Committee of the Club. Notice of intent may be made by e-mail via the Club Website.

Section 4. An application for membership must be accompanied by a fee which shall cover the dues for the current fiscal year. If, however, the application is made after May 15, dues payment shall also be credited to the following year. This credit shall also be extended to new members who join during the February show at the NYS Museum in Albany. However, it shall not apply to memberships *renewed* at the show.

Article II -- DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall perform such other duties as commonly pertain to the Presidency. The President shall:

1. Appoint chairmen of standing committees and of *ad hoc* committees.
 2. Administer the budget for all operational purposes.
 3. Present to the membership a listing of all committee assignments and chairmen at the first meeting following election to office. This list will be distributed to members in attendance and published in the Bulletin the following month.
 4. Present to the Board of Trustees, at their first meeting following election of Club officers, a tentative budget for the coming year. The Board will consider this before adopting the official budget for the year.
 5. At the November meeting, appoint a nominating committee of three (3) members, including a chairman, who shall nominate a candidate for each office of the Club for the annual elections in January.
- The President is authorized by the Board of Trustees to sign checks in the event the Treasurer is unable to do so or is absent for an extended time.
 - The President, in consultation with the Program Chairman, is authorized to cancel a scheduled meeting in case of inclement weather or other dire emergency. A "telephone tree" will be established to contact as many members as possible and to notify news media of cancellation.
 - The President is appointed to the Board of Trustees upon election to office.
 - The term of office for the President shall be one (1) year, with eligibility for two consecutive one-year terms.
- Section 2. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the event the president is absent or unable to serve, and shall succeed to the Presidency in the event of a vacancy in that office. The Vice President shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.
- The Vice President shall serve as chairman of the Field Trips Committee.
 - The Vice President is appointed to the Board of Trustees upon election to office.

- The term of office for the Vice President shall be one (1) year, with eligibility for two consecutive one-year terms.

Section 3. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all regular meetings of the Club and of the Board of Trustees. The Secretary shall:

1. Be custodian of current Club records and files.
 2. Send cards to members or members' families in times of serious illness or bereavement.
- The Secretary is appointed to the Board of Trustees upon election to office.
 - The term of office for the Secretary shall be one (1) year. There shall be no limit to the number of terms the Secretary may serve.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall receive all dues and other monies and shall make disbursements as authorized by the President.

- At the direction of the Board of Trustees, the Treasurer shall:
 1. Deposit all Club funds in an appropriate depository.
 2. Keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements.
 3. Present a monthly statement of the financial status of the Club.
 4. At the January meeting, submit a summary report for the preceding year.
- The Treasurer is appointed to the Board of Trustees upon election to office.
- The term of office for the Treasurer shall be one (1) year. There shall be no limit to the number of terms the Treasurer may serve.

Section 5. Any officer who is derelict in the discharge of duties, or whose conduct may be considered detrimental to the welfare or reputation of the Club, may be removed from office by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board of Trustees.

- This vote shall be by closed ballot, in writing. Three-fourths (3/4) of the membership may petition, in writing, the Board of Trustees to consider the impeachment of an officer.

Article III -- ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall announce the names of nominees for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer at the December meeting, and formally present the nominees for election at the January meeting.

- Nominations for any office may be made from the floor at the December and the January meetings by any member, providing the member shall first have secured the consent of the nominees.
- In the event that the January meeting is cancelled, elections shall be held at the February or next subsequent meeting.
- Election to office shall be by simple majority vote of the attending members.

Section 2. The officers elected at the January or first subsequent meeting shall assume their duties upon the adjournment of that meeting.

Article IV -- DUES

Section 1. Annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. The fiscal year of the Club shall begin on September 1 and terminate on August 31.

Section 3. The Membership Committee shall place a dues notification in all Club Bulletins from August through December.

Section 4. Members in arrears by the first day of January shall be automatically dropped from membership, forfeiting all the rights

and privileges of same, and their names shall be removed from the Club's mailing list.

Article V -- STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Program Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members, including a chairman. The committee shall establish a yearly program that is well balanced and of interest and value to the membership, and shall furnish a monthly program announcement to the Bulletin Editor and to the Webmaster.

Section 2. The Field Trip Committee shall consist of at least four (4) members, including the Vice President, who shall function as chairman. The committee shall set up a tentative schedule of field trips to submit to the membership by the April meeting. Other field trips may be added, when appropriate, by members or field trip leaders, provided they are properly announced to the membership. A field trip leader may cancel a scheduled trip for "lack of response." The leader must notify the committee chairman prior to the time the trip was to take place. This reaffirms the necessity for all members planning to attend a field trip to contact the trip leader in advance.

Section 3. The Membership Committee shall consist of a chairman and at least two (2) other members. The Committee shall:

1. Collect all correspondence from the Club post office box.
2. Distribute correspondence to Club officers as appropriate.
3. Process new and renewal membership applications, and any resignations.
4. Forward monies received to the Treasurer.
5. Report items of interest at Club meetings.
6. Forward mineral and gem show announcements and other literature, as appropriate, to the Bulletin Editor.
7. Maintain and publish a membership list.

Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members, including a chairman. The committee shall present a list of nominees at the December meeting, to be formally presented for a vote at the January meeting, or next subsequent meeting.

Section 5. The Public Relations and Publicity Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members, including a chairman. The committee shall be responsible for all public relations activities of the Club, and for any publicity issued for any purpose as directed by the President.

Section 6. The In-Service Committee shall consist of at least two (2) members appointed for a two-year period, whose duties shall be to cooperate with any Earth Science organization or group, to promote further interest and knowledge in this field. This committee shall solicit members willing to give presentations to interested groups. When a request is received, the committee shall contact these members to confirm the topic, time and place of the presentation.

Section 7. The Map Committee shall consist of a chairman and at least three (3) other members, whose duty shall be to prepare maps of geological and mineral areas of interest, with input from field trip leaders. Computer-generated road maps, plots on topographic software, photographs and GPS coordinates are encouraged. These maps shall be filed in our library and by the committee chairman, who shall pass the file onto successive chairs.

Section 8. The Scholarship Committee shall consist of a chairman and at least two (2) other members, whose duty shall be to forward to the head of the geology department, funds for a graduate or undergraduate scholarship in geology.

Section 9. The Greeting Committee shall consist of a chairman and

at least one (1) other member, whose duty shall be to welcome visitors and new members and to introduce them during the meetings.

Section 10. The Auction Committee shall consist of a chairman and at least two (2) other members, whose duty shall be to conduct auctions at the June and December Club dinners and any other designated gatherings.

Section 11. The Audit Committee shall consist of a chairman and at least two (2) other members, whose duty shall be to conduct an annual audit of the Treasurer's records prior to the January or first subsequent meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Section 12. The Library Committee shall consist of a chairman and at least one (1) other member, whose duties shall be to maintain an inventory of the existing library, oversee borrowing, and recommend additions and deletions. Library materials shall be available at all meetings.

Section 13. The President shall, at their discretion, appoint temporary committees when and as the need arises.

Article VI -- RULES OF ORDER

The deliberations of the Club and of its standing and special committees shall be governed by parliamentary usage as contained in "Robert's Rules of Order - Revised" (www.rulesonline.com) when not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Club.

Article VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at any regular meeting of the Club or of the Board of Trustees shall be as follows, with modification as necessary:

1. Opening of meeting by the presiding officer.
2. Introduction of visitors and new members.
3. Program.
4. Short break to rearrange seats, visit library, conduct silent auction, etc.
5. Reports of officers (Secretary and Treasurer).
6. Reports of committee chairmen.
7. Announcements.
8. Unfinished business and new business.
9. Election of officers.
10. Introduction of new officers.
11. Good and welfare.
12. Adjournment.

Article VIII FIELD TRIPS

All persons attending a Club Field Trip must be Club Members. The definition of an Official Club Field Trip is that it has been published in the Club Bulletin or announced at a Club meeting prior to said trip. If announced at the Club meeting, the trip must be recorded in the minutes by the Secretary, AND

1. The trip has a designated field trip leader. OR
2. The trip is sponsored by a related organization, such as Eastern FieldTrip Alliance (EFTA), following notification procedures established by the organization, and which also meet the qualifications set forth above. For such co-sponsored trips, the trip shall be considered official if only one member from the Capital District Mineral Club attends.

Adopted 1958; Amended October 5, 1967; Amended March 2, 1972; Amended April 1, 1976; Amended November 2, 1989; Amended May 2003; Amended _____

Capital District Mineral Club
P.O. Box 12814
Albany, NY 12212-2814

Officers:

President	Paul Van Schaick	518-399-5810
Vice Pres	Anne Woods	518-000-0000
Secretary	Helen Eckler	518-943-3459
Treasurer	Robert Stitham	518-755-2255

Newletter Staff:

Anne M. Woods <schmanie@albanyrockclub.com>
Don Kauffman
George Gearhardt

Website:

<www.albanyrockclub.com>

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.