

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

January 2007

December Banquet Review

Everyone who attended the December Banquet of the CDMC at the Rexford Fire Station this past December seemed to have a great time. There were goodies at the tables, a few door prizes, and the auction went on as planned. We learned a few things for next time as the people behind the auction. We need to be literally behind the auctioneer, to gain full access to what is going on. There was a bit of stress in trying to figure out the number flashed into the air when seen from the side of the card. Everything worked out in the end however.

Dues are Due

Please contact the Membership Committee if you haven't paid your dues. There are still 65 people who have not renewed. If you are one of those people, consider this your last newsletter. Remember if you rather receive an electronic copy of your newsletter via E-mail, now would be a great time to tell the Membership Committee. The membership form can be downloaded off the website on the back of this newsletter.

Show Announcement

February 24th & 25th 2007: Albany, New York, the 14th annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale will be co-sponsored by the New York State Academy of Mineralogy and the Capital District Mineral Club which will be held on the 4th floor of the New York State Museum at the Empire State Plaza on Madison Avenue, Albany, New York. The hours will be 10:00AM to 5:00 PM on both days. Free parking. The admission is \$6.00 which includes both the Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and the New York in Bloom Flower Show. For more information, call Mike Hawkins, Mineralogical Collection Manager of the New York State Museum at (518) 486-2011 or (518) 473-7154. His email address is mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov.

Elections

At this meeting will be a vote for the new officers. If you want to vote, make sure that you attend.

February Mineral Show Committee Update

Posters will be available at the January 4th meeting for distribution throughout the Capital District area. For those members who have submitted a list of where they went in 2006, a copy of this list will be available at the meeting, for all others--rely on your memory. As usual, stores, schools, and colleges are good choices to ask permission to leave a poster or two. Only the regular size poster is available this year, the smaller ones are not available, too bad.

Board of Trustee's Meeting

The members of the Board of Trustee's will have its next meeting on Thursday January 25th. The time will be 6:30pm and the place has not been determined at this point. It will be either the home of George Gearhardt or a restaurant in the area that has a small private room. Suggestions are requested. Items of interest by club members can be given to any of the trustees for consideration on the agenda. The trustees are: Helen Eckler, Max Fischer, Barbara and George Gearhardt, Robert Hartig, Charles and Joyce Vedder, Bob Ballard, Fred Dobert, Jim Palmer, Robert and Elaine Royer, Anne Woods, Robert Stitham, Richard Stein, Ruth Schmidt, Gerald Boileau, Joe Almasi, Bruce and Charyl Murray, and Tom and Cheryl Halleran.

Limekiln Road Fossil Coral Site in Coxsackie and New Baltimore Counties

by Don Kauffman

You may be a mineral collector but for something just a little bit different, take a trip down NYS Thruway to a country road for a trip just a little out of ordinary.

Limekiln Road is an interesting area about 18 to 20 miles below

Albany, Our first stop there was after a collecting trip to Clarksville back in '98. One Albany club member was kind enough to tell us about an experience he had in that location. So we decided to check it out on the way back to PA.

Our first visit provided some very interesting fossil corals that had been pushed off to road 's edge by a snow plow or road grader. At that same time it was also a valuable lesson to have a camera along for photos of almost primordial rocks and plant growth just yards from the road.

Another point of interest was the restored kiln on the road's north side, a landmark impossible to miss. From our travels we have noted almost every state has a road named "Limekiln". This is because in early colonial times such kilns were used for making charcoal, potash and other useful and almost necessary colonial needs. Some of the oldest populated areas of our Middle Atlantic states have annual demonstrations of how lime kiln was used.

Long before humans set up kilns, eastern New York was covered by an ancient inland sea. There varieties of corals both Ordovician and Silurian provided sanctuary to tiny reef builders. The remains of those reefs are no doubt exposed throughout parts of eastern Greene County. Much of the discovery of those ancient coral reefs may just take a drive through the area.

From Albany take Rt. 87 Thruway south to Exit 21B (approximately 18 to 20 miles below Albany),

After passing through the toll booth there is a traffic light on Rt. 9W. There you turn south (left).

Drive approximately 0.4 miles to intersection of Rt. 9W and Rts. 81/26, Turn right at the traffic light onto Rts 81/26 and follow the combined route signs until you reach a "Y" in the road. At the "Y" bear to the right following Route 26 approximately 0.5 mile. By that marker you should see Green County Road. Make a right onto Green County Road. About 0.2 mile from the turn you will see the Quarry Steak House on the right. Follow Rt. 26 (Greene County Road) approximately 0.5 mile to intersection of Limekiln Road and turn right.

A drive along Limekiln Road from Greene County Road shows at approximately ¾ to 1 mile on the left highly visible 15 to 20 yard long stone formations much like a continuous high wall parallel to the road. The formation appears to be mostly chert or at least limestone banded with chert on several large boulders. The long form may be composed of coral or alge colonies that were replaced by replacement mineralization. The host material is extremely hard and without layering so cleaving off any sample would be near impossible. Also there are issues of being so close to the road edge and ownership of adjacent property. Best advised to take a photo and move on. Follow Limekiln Road approximately 2 miles and you will see an old restored lime kiln on your left.

Opposite the kiln we examined large chunks of what appeared to be rock along edge of the road. That south side a pile of limestone pieces adjacent to a low-lying swampy area provided us with several interesting samples. Most of the pieces looked like common rocks until turned over.

The local scenery was of extreme interest. Approximately 0.2 to 0.3

miles along the road as we moved along the south side we gazed from road edge into the nearby wooded area. There we saw a long section of very primeval looking rocks covered by a luxurious coating of moss. The moss appeared to be inches thick. The moss covered rocks presented an appearance of great age and perhaps split by ancient glacial or geological action. The area was quite breathtaking. The surrounding forest was very quiet. It was almost as if the trees and rocks absorbed any sound from the interstate just a few miles east.

We spent a very short time collecting a variety of interesting pieces that were just on top of the dusty piles. (NOTE: This was also the last opportunity to collect anything as such material A year later we returned and found the road freshly paved over. The fossil strewn edge was graded and smoothed over.)

That was just one small part of a section of Greene County. My impression is that there are probably more anciently picturesque areas county wide. Since we were tourists passing through, we had no time to explore other country roads at any great length.

The Limekiln Road site is a beautiful and peaceful area with a natural ambiance. For us it proved to be a very worth while side trip. Perhaps Albany club members can make the trip and find even more interesting areas to explore along the shores of that ancient sea.

Rockhounding with Pink Book *by Don Kauffman*

Our beginnings as rockhounds take us back over a decade when we traveled without a clue in beautiful upstate New York. Our starting point was above Albany in the massive Adirondack region.

Back in the late 1950's my dad introduced my family to this exquisite recreational area. Then our trips were purely centered on the Lake George and Ticonderoga areas. Dad's unquenchable interest was in history and the English war with the French of the late 1750's. We learned a lot about history but little of geological features or mining history of the region.

Some forty years later, as a honeymoon trip, I took Linda to Lake George. She got hooked on the beauty and vastness of mountains, sparkling water, and clean air. We spent many happy weeks of the early 1990's playing tourist throughout the area.

Our search for history and scenery gave way to an interest in regional geology. Inspired by an edition of *Lapidary Journal* listing "rock, mineral, jewelry and gem" shows throughout the northeast, we attended our first Albany rock show in 1993. It was there that we discovered and purchased a regional guide to mineral collecting from an Albany rock shop owner.

Bound in pink covers with black lettering this dealer-published monograph was designed and produced to introduce mineral collectors to the region. Pink Book, as we came to make reference, became our rock and mineral-collecting bible and was our closest reference to sites of New York and New England at the time. Finding any other comparable guide for the region today is still difficult.

Consisting of just a page over fifty, Pink Book provided rockhounds with maps to locations visited by experienced collectors. It was basically a notebook to locations from compass points outside central Albany: from Suffolk County south, Fulton west, Essex north and Washington County east with over a dozen other adjacent counties.

A very nice Table of Contents inside the cover introduced 41 New York locations within 17 New York counties plus 12 sites in neighboring New England states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont. Listings were alphabetical by county with each providing directions to rock and mineral collecting sites.

Of greatest assistance were boxed landmark notations (i.e. "very tall antenna tower") included with those directions helping make sense of it all. Pink book no doubt proved indispensable to out-of-state visitors like us who were totally clue-less as to location of some smaller Adirondack towns let alone directions as to how to get there.

With help of Pink Book we decided to explore as many of the listed sites as we could. In a June of 1994 camping trip and subsequent visits we found as many as 27 of 53 listed locations.

As novices we took many wrong turns. Not every site visit spelled "success". We found some sites didn't quite meet our expectations. Admittedly we often cursed Pink Book for leading us on a wild goose chase. Now, years later, we look back to laugh at mistakes made due to enthusiastic lack of collecting experience.

Some of our favorite locations were Bethlehem quartz location just south of Albany, the labradorite locale up at Blue Ridge, Minerva calcite location, the fossil location of Brookfield in Madison County and Judd's Bridge kyanite locality in Connecticut. We also enjoyed Petrified Gardens over in Saratoga County that is a nationally recognized historical site. Most of these locations we visited more than once over a period of 5 years.

Our adventures with Pink Book played out and we learned of attractions over in the Granite State and mineral locations in Oxford County of the Pine Tree State. But an occasional look at Pink Book on our reference brings fond memories of our successes and misadventures in the early days of hobby.

Pink Book, known in publication as Rockhounding in Eastern New York State and Nearby New England still exists as a 7th Edition. The rock shop, Many Facets, until recently has kept up with demand by updating and revising contents of the guide. At last check there are now 99 sites listed. Almost twice as many as our 1993 purchase held.

Personally, I still have a yearning to revisit some of those locations now that there are a few more years of seasoned collecting under my boots. Maybe we can take Pink Book Upstate just one more time before the rock hammers get too dull.

References: Article based on actual experience and inspired by Rockhounding in Eastern New York State and Nearby New England, by Dan and Carolyn Zabriskie New 4th Edition published by Many Facets, 438 New Karner Road, Albany, New York, Copy-

right 1990-1994, MANY FACETS.

(Editor's Note: I do believe that this rock shop is now closed.)

Rock Shows 2007

- Jan. 24-28. Quartzsite, AZ. 41st annual pow wow and show; Quartzsite Improvement Association; 235 E. Ironwood Dr.; Wed. 9-5, Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; more than 300 vendors, daily field trips; contact Diane Abbott, Pow Wow Chairman, P.O. Box 881, Quartzsite, AZ 85346-0881, (928) 927-6325; e-mail: gia@rraz.net; Web site: www.quartzsiteimprovementassoc.com.
- Jan. 26- Feb. 6. Tucson, AZ. Show; J.O.G.S. International Exhibits; Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E. Irvington Rd.; Fri. 11-6; free admission; Contact Vitaliy, 650 S. Hill St., Ste. 612, Los Angeles, CA 90014, (213) 629-3030; e-mail: info@jogsshow.com; Web site: www.jogsshow.com.
- Jan. 27- Feb. 4. Tucson, AZ. Wholesale show; George Zraket; BGMS Gem Central, 5151 S. Country Club; 10-6 all days; US and international exhibitors, Contact George Zraket, 6060 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85250-4626, (480) 998-4000; e-mail: gzraket@aol.com; Web site: www.beaudrygemshow.com.
- Jan. 27- Feb. 10. Tucson, AZ. Show, "Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; five locations: The InnSuites Hotel, 475 N. Granada; The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N. Oracle Rd.; Clarion Hotel - Randolph Park, 102 N. Alvernon Way; Quality Inn, 1025 E. Benson Hwy.; Ramada Limited, 665 N. Freeway; 10-6 daily, 10-5 last day; free admission; more than 400 international dealers, free shuttle among locations, Artist Gallery at InnSuites Hotel; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, fax (505) 867-0073; e-mail: MZ0955@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com.
- Jan. 29- Feb. 5. Tucson, AZ. Bead Renaissance Show; J&J Promotions LLC; 3340 E. Michigan, next to the Hollidome; Mon. 10-6, Tue. 10-6, Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-9, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; free admission; Contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (505) 894-1293; e-mail: info@beadshow.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com.
- Feb. 8-11. Tucson, AZ. Show, "Tucson Gem and Mineral Show"; Tucson Gem & Mineral Society; Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave.; Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7, children under 14 free with paying adult; Contact Tucson Gem & Mineral Society, P.O. Box 42588, Tucson, AZ 85733, (520) 322-5773; e-mail: tgms@tgms.org; website: www.tgms.org.
- Feb. 9-11. Tucson, AZ. Show; J.O.G.S. International Exhibits; Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E. Irvington Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; free admission; Contact Vitaliy, 650 S. Hill St., Suite 612, Los Angeles, CA 90014, (877) GEM-SHOW; e-mail: info@lastcallshow.com; Web site: www.lastcallshow.com.
- Feb. 24-25. Albany, NY. 14th annual show and sale; New York State Academy of Mineralogy, Capital District Mineral Club; 4th floor, New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5; admission \$6; includes the New York in Bloom Flower Show; Contact Mike Hawkins, (518) 486-2011, (518) 473-7154; e-mail: mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov.

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

Officers:

President	Paul Van Schaick	518-399-5810
Vice Pres	Anne Woods	518-322-7932
Secretary	Helen Eckler	518-943-3459
Treasurer	Robert Stitham	gumby59@surferz.net

Newletter Staff:

Anne Woods schmanie@albanyrockclub.com
Don Kauffman
George Gearhardt
Robert Stitham

Website:

<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.