

# 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 2006*

## **January Meeting**

The January meeting of the Capital District Mineral Club will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2006. 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.

## **January "Hot Rocks" Program**

Bob Ballard, our long time member, will be presenting a program on radioactive minerals, including what radioactivity is, what minerals are radioactive, how dangerous they are, how to find them, etc. He will display a nice range of minerals from the ugly black primary ores to the beautiful secondary minerals; show off the minerals one can easily find on our field trips in this area; demonstrate Geiger counters and how they work. He will also show some of the radioactive things you may have around the house as well as some to the books on collecting radioactive minerals.

## **Review of December Banquet**

*by George Gearhardt*

Thirty-five members and guests attended the banquet/auction meeting held at the Rexford Fire House in Rexford, NY on Dec 1, 2005. It was a new facility for us and was well received by the members. There was easy access from the parking lot, a large well-lighted meeting room, and the caterer provided an excellent meal and service. The Banquet Committee met for a few minutes after the affair and were considering using the facility in the near future.

The spirited (at times) auction was led by Mark Kilmer and assisted by runners Bob Stitham and Gerald Boileau. Clerical support was supplied by Anne Woods, George Gearhardt, and

Bob Ballard. The speedy process of calculating the totals and collecting the money from the buyers as well as distributing the proceeds to the sellers was so swift that Richard Stein had no opportunity to entertain the group by playing his hammered dulcimer. Next time he will play before the dinner and not after. New lesson learned and noted.

The net proceeds on the auction was \$171.00 to the club treasury.

## **Dues Are Due**

This is the final notice of all members who have neglected to renew their membership. If you have renewed and your name on the address label does not show "8/06" call or email George Gearhardt immediately. Mistakes have been known to happen in the past. You will not receive the February newsletter or others after it until you renew.

## **President's Farewell Address to 2005**

*by Paul Van Schaick*

As 2005 comes to a close, I would like to thank all those who helped out this year with our club. With your help, it has made my president's job so much easier. The work that all of the committees were involved with made what I call a very successful year. Our Annual Mineral Show, field trips, raffles & auctions, and both our dinner meetings went on as smooth as could be expected. It could not have been done without the help of all our members.

Special kudos go out to two very dear ladies. Ruth Schmidt as most of you know, is stepping down as treasurer after serving the club for an incredible length of time. She deserves much thanks from the Mineral Club. Helen Eckler has also been at the helm as secretary these many years and is planning to run for office again next month. Both of these ladies have done a great job at filling a most important part of our club's

functions.

There are so many people to thank, that I am afraid I might miss someone, but I do want to give a special thank you to Mike Hawkins and the staff of the Albany Museum for helping us out all these years. Mike is not just an associate to the club, but both a friend and mentor to all our members. Thanks Mike!

Once again thanks to all our members for helping out this past year. If I am elected again next month I know there are a lot of friends I can call on again to help me through the next year's business.

### **Trustees Meeting**

Chairman Bob Ballad will hold the required annual trustee meeting on Saturday January 14, 2006. The meeting place will be at his house at 3 Hillside Drive in Scotia, NY starting at 1:00 pm.

#### TRUSTEE MEETING AGENDA

- a. Secretary and treasurer reports.
- b. Adopt the official budget for the next year.
- c. Club Claim. While the price for the claim has gone up, Jim Palmer and Chuck Vedder have worked in it and have found some good Herkimer Diamonds. I recommend that we keep the claim.
- d. Bylaws. Thanks to conditions I won't go into, we still have not presented an updated bylaws to the club for a vote. The official announcement of this meeting [sent to all trustee board members] will contain a copy of the bylaws we will present to the club for ratification.
- e. Election of new chairman. I have been chairman four years now. While not a hard job, I think it is time to let someone else take over.
- f. New Business.

Any club member may submit agenda items for the board to consider and is welcome to attend the board meeting. However, if you are not a member of the official board, you may not vote on club matters at this meeting. Any club member interested in helping lead the club is welcome to apply to be on the board of trustees.

### **Show Committee**

A copy of the poster to be used at the February Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show & Sale was available to the members attending the banquet to look over carefully. The actual posters will be available for the Show Committee at the January 5th Club Meeting at the NYS museum. A meeting of those on the committee will be held on January 11th at 7:00pm at the

home of George and Barbara Gearhardt [67 East Hite Court, Schenectady, NY 12303; (518) 355 0670; ggear@atecone.net]. The committee will figure out specific places for the posters to be placed and make sure that no effort is wasted by two people placing a poster in the same place. A follow-up meeting may be necessary to replace those posters that have been removed by people wanting to go.

### **Nominating Committee**

In the only business conducted at the December meeting, the Nominating Committee's slate of officers for the coming year was given by George Gearhardt. For the office of President: Paul Van Schaick; Vice-President: Anne Woods; Treasurer: Bob Stitham; and Secretary: Helen Eckler. Ruth Schmidt has been our treasurer for the past thirty-three years and she has decided to retire, so some movement was required to try to make the slate of candidates as complete as possible. As usual, anyone can nominate someone for any of the offices at the January meeting before the actual vote takes place. Be sure to have the approval of whoever you are nominating before doing so.

### **Non-Collecting Time = High-Grading Time**

*by George Gearhardt*

Consider instead of tossing all your rock, mineral, and fossil specimens into the landfill (as your children and heirs will), to please bring those specimens not defined as "keepers" to the club meeting in January or February 2006. They can be used in the "sand box dig" at the museum show in February and/or the monthly raffles or semi-annual auctions. Or if you have specimens from New York State, you might also choose to contact Mike Hawkins, collection manager for the Geological Survey at the Albany museum at (518)486-2011. Location is always more important than beauty when choosing what to give away. Please make sure your specimens are labeled properly with name and location before donating them. Speaking of sharing, Joyce and Chuck Vedder dropped off some Arkansas quartz and Bancroft, Ontario samples of minerals containing fluorite, calcite and mica; while Bob Kaufmann brought some fossil leaves from Pennsylvania to the November meeting (these were part of our December auction). Bob also brought some calcite and dolomite bits that will go to the sand box dig at the February show. Last week Ken Wieland donated a hundred slabs and cabachon cuttings for beginners that will be used in the near future. So, come on, share a little. You know you have too much stuff packed away in cartons that never see the light of day. Get them out, look at them, and then share some with others.

## Field Trip Information

The owners of the Balmat #4 zinc mine (St. Lawrence county) are reopening their mine in early 2006. It has been shut down since 2001 (but, maintained) and miners and collectors are getting excited. [from the December issue of the St. Lawrence club].

## Electronic Newsletter

by *George Gearhardt*

I have five club members and eight mineral clubs that we exchange newsletters who are willing to get the electronic newsletter. Please consider switching over to an electronic newsletter. The postage alone would amount to about \$5.00 per year per newsletter then the cost of printing would be in addition, so the club could save around \$8.00 per member. That is a big part of the membership dues. We might actually be able to lower the dues in the near future. Once again, interested participants should contact George Gearhardt or Anne Woods at [schmanie@albanyrockclub.com](mailto:schmanie@albanyrockclub.com).

## Upcoming Mineral Shows

January 25-29, 2006. Quartzite, Arizona: 40th annual show, "QIA Pow Wow" Quartzite Improvement Association; 235 E. Ironwood Dr.; Wed. 9-5, Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; Contact Diane Abbott, P.O. Box 881, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6325; e-mail: [qia@redrivernet.com](mailto:qia@redrivernet.com); Web site: [www.quartzsiteimprovementassoc.com](http://www.quartzsiteimprovementassoc.com).

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](mailto: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](mailto:mz0955@aol.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@beadshow.com); Web site: [www.beadshow.com](http://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](mailto:mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov).

PUBLICATIONS

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

at the  
NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM  
EMPIRE STATE PLAZA  
ALBANY, NY  
INFORMATION: 518-474-5977

13th ANNUAL  
JAMES CAMPBELL MEMORIAL

JEWELRY

LECTURES

MINERAL AND FOSSIL IDENTIFICATION

GUIDED MUSEUM TOURS

GEM,  
MINERAL,  
AND  
FOSSIL  
SHOW  
& SALE

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

The New York State Museum is a part of The University of the State of New York, The State Education Department

Capital District Mineral Club  
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**Officers:**

President	Paul Van Schaick	518-399-5810
Vice Pres	Robert Stitham	518-755-2255
Secretary	Helen Eckler	518-943-3459
Treasurer	Ruth Schmidt	518-943-4876

**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.