

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

JULY 2003

July Meeting

As usual for July there will be no meeting this month. Enjoy your summer and collect lots of new minerals for "Show and Tell" at the September meeting along with the "Ugly Rock" contest. See you on Thursday, September 4.

July Program

Collect minerals and fossils on field trips, day trips and mineral and gem shows throughout the country.
Have fun!

June Program

We all enjoyed a roast beef dinner at the Scotia Methodist Church. Thanks to Betty Phillips for organizing the event. The silent auction was a great success netting our treasury the sum of \$347 as reported by Vice President, Paul Van Schaick.

Term Limits Extended

The motion to extend the term of office for both President and Vice President was approved by members during the June dinner meeting. The change to the Bylaws is intended to say that one can serve two consecutive one-year terms. No change was required for the office of secretary or treasurer but merely clarified and legitimized the practice of "no term limits".

Field Trip Reports

Diamond Acres, Fonda, New York - Jim Palmer, Leader

May 3, 2003 - Five people attended the trip to our claim at Diamond Acres. They were: Jim Palmer, Ann Woods, Max Fischer and Bob Stepa. Four of us worked the club claim while Max went off to search for boulders. Max's search was the most successful. He found a couple of nice diamonds while splitting rocks. The rest of us dug and then we dug some more. Little was found. However, we did clear off some dirt and shatter rock. This leaves us with solid bed rock. Diamond pockets should only be one foot to 1-1/2 feet down. Next time!

From previous diggings, the diamond pockets listed above contain small, clear Herkimer diamonds. Down from this layer about another foot or 1 1/2 feet is another layer of diamonds much bigger in size. A little deeper is the drizzly layer. The next layer of diamonds is reported to be 20 to 30 feet lower.

The above layering is not only true for our club claim, out front at Diamond Acres, but is also true for my claim way in the back. Except I don't have a lot of dirt and no shatter rock. I just have large boulders with a little dirt on top.

Herkimers can be found at any level. So sieve your dirt and tailing. Remember, all waste dirt and rock should be placed outside the claim.

Stoddard Mine, Westmoreland, NH - Richard Hartnett, Leader

June 8, 2003 - The following people attended the trip to the Stoddard Mine: Ann Woods, Jim Palmer, Jim and Mary Mosco, George Gearhardt, Max and Christine Fischer, Bob Ballard, Jack van DeCarr, Richard Hartnett and Bob and Stephanie Kaufman.

The group of about twelve people set out from the parking lot of Wal-Mart in Brunswick, New York at about 9:15 am. We played follow-the-leader to Wilmington, Vermont, our pre-announced rest stop for coffee, breakfast or just a clean restroom. All seven cars stayed together until Wilmington. What happened next was pure chaos. Only one car stopped along with field trip leader's car, as the others blithely roared on. Miracles, we somehow reunited in Brattleboro, Vermont at a traffic circle just before crossing the Connecticut River into New Hampshire.

Ann Woods and Jim Palmer left from a different location were there ahead of the pack. They had accompanied the field trip leader to the site a couple of weeks before, so they knew their way.

The day was very overcast, damp, cool, but it warmed up a bit later in the day. The mosquitoes got advanced word that a feast was on its way and they were there to chow down. Thank goodness we all had bug spray with Deet to discourage what other wise would have been a blood letting.

The group visited the first collecting site and found many specimens of Quartz crystals - some stained yellow, orange and/or reddish - nestled in vugs and cavities. On cleavage surfaces, many found what I think is Brochantite crystals. These crystals form as vivid green needles or sprays.

We passed several sites which have not been fully explored to go on to the main collecting sit - dump piles next to a 500 foot long, ten to thirty-five foot deep groove carved into the earth with water of

varying depths in the bottom. Here we did some serious collecting.

Everyone found green Fluorite, white Barite, and micro amounts of Malachite. Small amounts of Pyrite or Chalcopyrite were found by a few people. Max Fischer found a good pit for purple Fluorite and George Gearhardt found a mining artifact which he gave to Bob Ballard: a sidepiece of an old woodstove, nicely cast with floral details, but very rusty. It probably was 75 to 100 years old and was once in a miner's cabin.

Our group came from many locations - Clifton Park, Glens Falls, Glenmont, Hoosick, Guilderland, Scotia, Schenectady, Sharon Springs - and all seemed to have a good time; especially the two wives who went shopping in Keene, New Hampshire. Well, I guess we all can't appreciate nature's bargains.

Upcoming Field Trips

July 19, 2003: Hooper Mine, North River, NY - Bob Ballard, Trip Leader, 518-377-8656

Meeting Place: Jasco Mineral Shop, Rt. 28 and Barton Mine Road, North River, NY

Time: 10:00 am

Travel Distance and Time: From Exit 1 on Northway, 85 miles, allow 1 3/4 hours

Route of Travel: Northway to exit 23. Route 9 to Route 28. Route 28 to the shop in North River

Age Restrictions/Special Considerations: We will visit the mine and then go garnet panning in the stream that comes down from the mine. Suitable for children, but the Hooper Mine has some steep drop-offs and loose rocks. Children must not be allowed to run unsupervised. There is a moderately steep 10 minute walk from parking area to mine. Equipment to Bring: The Hooper Mine is on State

land. Collecting minerals without a permit is not allowed; however, since this is an old mine, the word is “what you can carry out in one trip” is not a problem. A hammer and chisel can be carried but there is enough loose material you do not need one.

For the stream, bring wading shoes, mineral screens, digging tools and a flashlight. Bring a complete change of clothes and towels to dry off with.

Lots of bug spray. Water and lunch if you wish. No facilities.

Minerals to Collect: Garnet and associated minerals. Gemmy garnet from the stream.

CALL THE TRIP LEADER IF YOU PLAN TO GO.

July 26, 2003: Roxbury, CT - Gerald Boileau, Trip Leader - 518-482-0511

On Saturday, July 26, 2003, Gerald Boileau will be leading a field trip to Roxbury, CT. We will be looking predominantly for Garnets but will also keep our eyes open for Staurolites. Most of them are single crystals but I did find a very nice cross a couple of years ago.

We will be meeting at the Gateway Diner, Central Avenue next to Westgate Shopping Center in Albany, and leaving at 9:30 am sharp. It is about a 3 hour trip.

WHAT TO WEAR - VERY IMPORTANT. Wear long pants and long sleeve shirts. This may be uncomfortable but we will be making a very easy, 15 minute walk, where we will be exposed to poison ivy and the possibility of ticks. Don't forget to tuck the bottom of your pants legs into your socks. Bring a good insect repellent since we will have mosquitoes and possibly black flies. A cap would be a good idea to keep the bugs and sun off

your head.

WHAT TO BRING: A screen, mesh or strainer to separate the dirt and sand from the garnets; digging tools' bucket or container to hold the garnets; gloves; safety glasses; water or soda and food.

CALL THE TRIP LEADER IF YOU PLAN TO GO.

South Newfane, Vermont - No date set - Richard Hartnett, Trip Leader - 518-439-7243

This Goldpanning trip to South Newfane, Vermont would be an exploratory trip. If the water levels are high, a person may have to get totally wet to get anything. This would be unique in that bathing suits or wet suits would be required. The trip would not be appropriate for small kids or those who could not swim unless they had a lifevest. We may or may not find any gold, but there should be micros of garnets. If the water levels were low, the above would not apply.

In any case, before leading this trip, I would want the weather to be hot and sunny. If you are interested in attending this trip, call the trip leader for more details.

The North East Field Trip Alliance (NEFTA) Field Trips

New Hampshire Fluorites

It is with great pleasure that we break this Major Announcement to all of the clubs in the Alliance. In a spirited, cooperative with Toveco, a New Hampshire based firm presents: “STARS & STRIPS & FLUORITE FOREVER!!!”, Saturday, July 5, 2003 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday, July 6, 2003 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Famous William Wise Fluorite Mine in Westmoreland, New Hampshire!

Our guest host at the mine is Jim Tovey; NEFTA Host Club is Capital Mineral club, Concord, NH.

Open only to the first 100 people that register on-line and paid based on the US postmark, so, ladies and gentlemen, starting typing and mail in your check!

When you register on line, please supply the following information: your name, your club affiliation. (Please make 100% sure that your membership is current; if not see your club membership person or treasurer. If the card is not up to date, NO ENTRY TO SITE.)

Include your e-mail address (required only so NEFTA can effectively communicate with you about any program changes or additions). Send and e-mail to Ed Murphy at crystalaxis@aol.com. The cost for weekend dig is \$25.00 per person. The \$25.00 can be sent by check or money order, made payable to N.E.F.T.A. Mail to NEFTA, c/o Ed Murphy, President, 337 Crystal Drive, Bricktown, NJ 08723-5903. Please mail out your payments immediately; postmarked mail will be important here! Once your register, you register for BOTH days, no split weekend.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: The Wise dumps are being extensively BULLDOZED for us collectors! I have been informed that the material that we will be collecting has not seen light for some 75 years. This is a real treat and you can collect AS MUCH AS YOU WANT. Also, it is recommended that four wheel drive vehicles are the best to travel the road up to the mine. Once everyone is registered, then directions will be forwarded via e-mail.

Additional NEFTA Trips

July 12 - Capital Mineral Club, W. Ossipee, New Hampshire - Smoky Quartz, Microcline, Siderite, Fluorite

July 12 - Fulton County Mineral Club, mid NY - mid Devonian fossils

July 13 - Danbury Mineralogical Society, ???? - Tremolite, Diopside, Spene, Rutile, Quartz,

Calcite, Phlogopite, Aragonite, Hyalite Opal

July 19 - Bristol Rock and Mineral Club, ??? - Pegmatite usual minerals Beryl, Lithium, rich pegmatite with the following minerals: Lepidolite, Elbaite Tourmaline, Triplite, Columbite, Morganite, Fluorapatite, Ixiolite, Microlite, Schorl Tourmaline, Spessartine, Muscovite, Quartz, Cleavelandite, Microcline.

July 19 - SACO Valley Mineral Club, Lord Hill, Stoneham, Maine - Topaz, Smoky Quartz, beryl, Ball Mica plus about 100 other minerals. Mile plus hike. You can work dumps or the wall, part of the White Mt. National forest.

July 19 - Capital District Mineral Club, Warren County - Garnet

July 26 - Capital District Mineral Club, Roxbury, CT - Garnet xls, Staurolite

July 27 - Boston Mineral Club, Hampshire Co., MA - no fee - Anglesite, Barite, Cerrusite, Glaena, Malachite, Pyrite, Pyrolusite, Pyromorphite, Quartz, Smithsonite, Sphalerite, Wolframite, Wulfenite, many others.

August 2 - Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of the Raritan Valley, Lancaster Co., PA - Limestone mineral dig. Meet at gate to quarry entrance for entry at 8 am. Geology: This is an active limestone quarry, which cuts through the formation of dense gray to black dolomitic limestone. Mineralization occurs as vein fillings in brecciated limestone.

August 2 - Capital Mineral Club, N. Groton, NH - beryl, Apatite, Phosphates.

If you are interested in going on any of the above field trips, please e-mail our NEFTA representative, Bob Hartig, at phartig@nycap.rr.com.

First Timers' Report

From Bob and Steff Kaufman

We both had a great time at Wildacres. It is beautiful country, we made new friends and learned new things. We both would like to see all the classes take four days as you barely get started in two and we like to go at our own pace. Bob would have liked to be able to work at night also.

Wildacres Retreat

From Esther Dunn, EFMLS Newsletter

It's not too late to make your reservations for the fall EFMLS Wildacres session. The dates are September 2-8 and the cost is only \$275 per person. Our featured speaker will be Fred Ward, renowned author and gemologist who is sure to regale us with talks about pearls, diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and who knows what else. Fred's a charming fellow and terrific speaker.

In addition we have some wonderful classes lined up, each taught by a wonderful instructor. There's a "free day" so you can explore the area, a tail gate, auction and even a night of fun to help round out the week.

The fall session will also have the EFMLS host the first ever AFMS Judges Workshop, taught by our own Jay Bowman. This is a great chance for you to get to know folks from elsewhere in the U.S.

Applications for Wildacres can be found on the EFMLS website or by writing to Registrar John Milligan, 931 Carmichael Road, Owego, NY 13827-3320.

Another Assault on Collecting

From Dave Fordyce

AFMS Newsletter, June 2003

I regret to inform you that another attempt at hindering fossil collecting in the U.S. has been introduced in the United States Senate. Introduced

by Senator Akaka (D-HI) and co-sponsored by senator Baucus, S-546, contains some of the same restrictions and guidelines on collecting fossils that the infamous "Baucus Bill" had several years ago.

The full text can be found at www.fs.fed.us/geology.s546.rtf

Among other things, passage of the bill by Congress would create Class C and Class D felonies for certain offenses. It also declares any vertebrate fossils found in the U.S. to be the property of the "United States".

A.L.A.A. Director Peggy Blickfeldt is in the process of working with individuals on writing a counter proposal to this bill which will encompass the good points of this bill and the original bill introduced by A.L.A.A. at the time of the "Baucus Bill" legislation several years ago. We'll keep you posted.

In the meantime, it may not hurt to contact your legislator expressing your opposition to S-546 since it definitely would restrict your collecting and owning of vertebrate fossils.

Upcoming Shows

June 28-29: 39th Annual Rock, Swap and Mineral Show, Gilsum Elementary School and Town Recreation Fields, Route 10, Gilsum, NH.

July 12-13: Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc., Syracuse Jewelry & Mineral Show, New York State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY.

July 26-27: The Long Island Mineral & Geological Society, Inc. 22nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Mattituck High School. Main Road, Mattituck, NY. .

August 8-10: West Springfield, MA. East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Martin Zinn Exposition, Better Living Center, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Drive, West Springfield, MA.