

# THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



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P.O. Box 12814, Albany, New York 12212-2814

JULY 2005

## Review of June Banquet

by *George Gearhardt*

Forty-seven members attended the June Banquet and Auction held at the NYS museum in Albany, as well as the collection manager, curator, and director with their guests making the total attendance fifty-three. It was a catered dinner featuring a combination of shrimp and chicken, salmon, and prime rib. The auction netted the club about \$100, with 80% of the proceeds going to the member who supplied the specimen or book.

## Comments on the June Banquet

by *Gerry Boileau*

Our annual June Banquet and Auction was held at the museum this year. I have spoken to several members of our club and herein produce their responses. Chuck Vedder said the thought it had "great atmosphere and the food was far superior to the Gateway Diner." Bob Royer stated that "it was great and we should do it again." Gerald Boileau (the author) thought that "we owe a very special thank you to the New York State Museum and especially to Mike Hawkins for a most wonderful and really memorable banquet. It was without question the most delicious and elaborate banquet our club has had in my memory". Mark Kilmer said "it was terrific. It would be great to have it there again. The surroundings were terrific and very comfortable. It was like being in our own place. I give it high praises, many kudos, and A+'s across the board. It was well planned and the food was terrific. We owe a lot to the museum."

Clare Stein maintained that "it was great - everything about it was great. It was comfortable and the ambience was also great. It lent itself to being very sociable and most people seemed to really enjoy themselves. Everyone I spoke to really liked it." Richard Stein concurred with his wife. He enjoyed himself and really liked the food. When asked what he thought about the June banquet Fred Dobert said "it was an excellent idea and we (he and his wife) really enjoyed it. The environment was very good and appropriate. Mike Hawkins was nice to bring it up and follow through on it. We are appreciative of all his efforts on our behalf."

Paul Van Schaick stated that "it was fantastic. A great idea to have it at the museum. Mike did a great job and is a real good friend to our club. It was nice of the director and his wife and other staff to attend and support it. The food was great and Linda (his wife) also enjoyed it." Ruth Schmidt felt that "it was wonderful. Everything was very nice and I had a great time. It was great to see such a

nice turn out." Jim Palmer thought that "it was real fine and the atmosphere was very good." According to Bob Beckert, "It was Great!! Fabulous!! I had a lot of fun. I really enjoyed it. It was nice to see the museum staff there. The exhibits are beautiful." And last but not least Bob Ballard observed that "having it at the museum was very nice. The food was good and everything was very nice and very enjoyable."

## Meeting Reminder

Please remember that there are no meetings at the museum for the months of July and August. The next meeting will be on September 8th. Please note that for this time only, the September meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month because of Labor Day weekend.

## Field Trip Review

Saint Lawrence Cement Quarry, Hudson, NY. Thirteen people met at the parking lot of St. Lawrence Cement Quarry on Route 9 in Greenport, NY at 10am on Sunday July 11 to attend the fossil hunt. Field trip leader Bob Stitham with Quarry guy Paul Griggs led the crew into the quarry via cars. The weather was hazy, hot, and humid with a temperature of around 90F (no wind). We had barely enough water to survive out there. I do believe everyone went home with a good specimen or two. Bob B. even found a use for his saw. A large calcite boulder was found which many members felt the need to take a swing at with the 20 pound sledge. Even the quarry supervisor Paul took a swing or two. Fossils were had by all. Lots of sponges resembling fossilized ping pong balls were discovered. Went back to the spot that Teka did her blast...and found loads of fossils. One member found a very delicate highly detailed crinoid stem preserved in sandstone...one wrong move, and it just might turn to dust. Members present included Melissa Beaulieu, Jade, and her mother, Teka and Bob Stitham, Bob Ballard, Tom & Cheryl Hallerhan, Anne Woods, Bob Kaufmann, Steve Mayo, Curt Lindy, and Gerry Boileau.

Fossils, Clarksville, NY. Four people went on the Clarksville fossil hunt. Good specimens were found in the creeks just outside Clarksville. At the end of the trip they went over to the Clarksville cave. The cave is now in the hands of caving enthusiasts as is the Knoxville cave and spider cave. Church cave is now closed.

## Field Trips for July

Please note that you must make reservations with trip leaders ahead of time if you plan on attending a trip. Also please arrive at the location when specified. Most trip leaders will not wait for you, and it is not fair to the other field-trippers to ask them to.

July 3, 2005. Unusual Field Trip. If you are torn between collecting minerals and not traveling over the Fourth of July weekend, we have an unusual field trip proposal for you. George and Barbara Gearhardt have the remnants of the minerals donated to the club by Charlie Brown in 2000. Once received, about ten members met to attempt to identify the minerals, some success was made, but the locations were just guessed. After five years of raffles, auctions and giveaways (offers of a five-pound bag of minerals from the Franklin, NJ area) fluorescent types to any member willing to stop and pick them out, the end is not in sight. There are still five plastic tubs (each holding at least five cardboard flats) available to any member willing to stop by and pick them up at the reasonable price of fifty cents to one dollar each. There are a few high priced ones available (Herkimer diamonds in matrix, for example). BUT, that is not all—the Gearhardt's have been building their own “dump site” in the backyard over the years and are willing to offer one free specimen (any size) for each item purchased. All monies collected will be donated to the club treasury. Sunday afternoon between 1-5pm on Sunday, the 3rd of July. Our home is located at 67 East Hite Court in Guilderland (just off Western Avenue and Carman Road. Call 355-0670 for directions.

July 9, 2005. Minerva, NY. Meet at Exit 23 Warrensburg, NY on the Northway at the McDonalds at 10am. Field trip leader Bob Ballard can be contacted at: 518-377-8656 (rballad@nycap.rr.com) to secure a spot. Since you have to walk about a mile up the old [1943] railroad that went to Tahawus, minimum tools should be carried (eg. a hammer, chisel, bucket, etc.). The railroad made several cuts in the rock. The first cut has blue calcite, micro but very fluorescent zircon and vesuvianite. The bigger cut has blue calcite, green and blue apatite and a bunch of other minerals. Farther up the line (about a mile past the collecting area) is a cave of marble over granite. The collecting area is fairly safe, so children are welcome under adult supervision. This is black fly season and they are eagerly expecting us. Bring lots of bug repellent and/or head nets. No food, water or comfort facilities available at the site. Materials to collect include graphite, calcite, vesuvianite, wollastonite, quartz, zircon, hematite/pyrite/labradorite in tracks, apatite, etc.

July 23, 2005. Mudslide Exploration Trip. Meet at Exit 23 Warrensburg, NY on the Northway at the McDonalds at 10am. Field trip leader Bob Ballard can be contacted at: 518-377-8656 (rballad@nycap.rr.com) to secure a spot. This is strictly an exploration trip. We don't guarantee that you will find anything. Travel lightly (hammer, chisel, bucket)...hiking boots and safety glasses, bug spray, etc. Bring your camera.

### Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Field Trip Itinerary

Contact Bob Hartig if you want to attend trips: 518-842-5948

July 9, 2005. North Shore Rock and Mineral Club. Chester Massachusetts. Melvin and Old Emery Mines for margarite,

corundum, hornblend, and magnetite. Contact Joe Grace at boyntotl@comcast.net for further information.

July 16, 2005. St. Lawrence County Rock and Mineral Club. Wolf Rd. Edwards for diopside, tremolite, feldspar. Contact Bill or JoAnna deLorraine at wdellie@verizon.net.

July 31, 2005. North Shore Rock and Mineral Club. Swiftwater New Hampshire. Wild Ammonoosuc gold panning. Contact Joe Grace at boyntotl@comcast.net for further information.

Aug 20, 2005. Worcester Mineral Club. VAG Mine. Eden Mills, VT. Vesuvianite, garnet, diopside, and serpentine, <<http://worcesterminalclub.org>> or delsjohn@aol.com.

Aug. 27, 2005. St. Law. Co. Rock and Mineral Club. Powers Farm for the black tourmaline. Contact Bill or JoAnna deLorraine at wdellie@verizon.net.

Aug. 27-28, 2005. Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Eden Mills, VT (Belvedere Mtn. Mines) aka Vermont Asbestos Group- Over 60 different mineral species (see midat.org) especially gemmy grossular garnets, actinolite, clinozoisite, epidote, vesuvianite etc. Gates open at 8AM- Small fee (\$5) may be required to offset entrance charge to our club. Contact Bob York at quartzhunter@aol.com for more details.

Sept. 10, 2005. Fulton County. Tentative. Crystal Grove, St. Johnsville, NY. Herkimer Diamonds & calcite xls. Possible swap and dig. Camping available. See <<http://www.crystalgrove.com>> for more info. \$7 a day dig fee.

Sept. 25, 2005. Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hurricane Mountain, Bartlett, NH.- smoky quartz, feldspar, amethyst, zircon, arfvedsonite (one of the few U.S. locations) Meet at Scenic Rest Area-Intervale, NH at 8AM.

Oct. 2, 2005. Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Moat Mountain, Albany, NH- Smoky quartz, microcline, danalite, fluorite, topaz. Meet at National Forest Mineral Parking area for Moat Mtn. at 8AM directions (including name & phone number of trip leader) will be posted on the SVG&M club website.

## July 2005 Show Announcements

July 9-10. Syracuse, NY. 38th annual show and sale; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; Cargill Exposition Center, New York State Fairgrounds, off I-690; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, children under 12 free; more than 55 dealers, 12 wholesale; Contact Gene Ridall, (315) 656-3692; Website: [www.gmss.us](http://www.gmss.us).

July 30-31. Mattituck (Long Island), NY. 24th annual show; Long Island Mineral & Geological Society; Mattituck High School; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, \$2.50 with flier, children under 12 free with adult; grand door prize of a faceted, 54-carat, pear-shapes amethyst; Contact Ron Lupo, (631) 878-4405; e-mail: [faceter01@hotmail.com](mailto:faceter01@hotmail.com).

July 30-31. South Burlington, VT. 26th annual show; Burlington Gem & Mineral Club; Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset St.; Sat.-Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors and ages 6-16 \$2, children under 6 free with adult; Contact Steve Howe, (802) 656-4118; Website: [www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org](http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org).

## Membership Increased

by George Gearhardt

We started the year with ninety-two active memberships and as of June 1 we have thirty-two new or renewed memberships making an increase of thirty-six percent. The breakdown is: 13 family; 13

single; and 6 student memberships. We had an aggressive membership drive in February when we co-sponsored the show at the museum with the Academy of Mineralogy; an active website to introduce our club to others; and an extensive field trip experience planned over the months of May through September. Whatever we do, let's continue doing it.

## **Mineral Collecting in Off Season Maine**

*by Don Kauffman*

Spring has always been my favorite time of year. Our recent trip to Maine satisfied that desire to travel and enjoy nature before the heat, humidity, and bugs arrive. Late April and early May seemed to be perfect.

We left Reading early on Wednesday to reach Hampton, New Hampshire. There we enjoyed coastal sea air, shoreline scenery and a seafood dinner at Warren's Lobster House Restaurant across state line in Kittery, Maine.

Thursday we spent morning to mid-afternoon dawdling through Portsmouth shops and a second-hand book barn. We then pushed on to Augusta, arriving at our reserved motel room about 7 P.M.

Friday, gathering our mineral collecting equipment, we set out to find Mt. Apatite west of Auburn. Following directions from an Internet website made the drive easy. With threat of showers, we chose to visit Greenlaw Quarry rather than Maine Feldspar. From all indications Greenlaw offered most promise of some successful collecting. A surprise find along trailside on the hike up was a large chunk of diabase with hyalite opal running through it.

My first collected piece from dumps at trails end was from an old digging site. It took form of a thumb-thick black schorl tourmaline measuring over two inches in length. In several hours we collected nice garnets with a matrix mix, a spray of green tourmaline in silvery muscovite, and a colorful piece of lavender lepidolite about the size of a quarter. We easily made selections of materials to be backpacked out.

Cloudy and cool weather prevailed but neither rain nor showers materialized. After several hours we left Mt. Mica for Augusta and Friday evening's program at the Maine Mineral Symposium.

Saturday was spent with mineral collectors from all over Maine and New England. No mineral collecting this day. We listened to half a dozen presentations with slide or Power Point visuals.

Highlight of this year's symposium was announcement by Maine Geological Survey moderator Woody Thompson that Sunday's mineral collecting trip would be to Mt. Mica Quarry in Oxford County. All symposium participants were thrilled as opportunity to get into Mt. Mica is rare.

Sunday weather was continuation of unseasonably cool temperatures. Light rain fell on nearly 150 eager mineral collectors at Mt. Mica.

Just as dreams of sugarplum fairies dancing in children's heads during Christmas, It may be certain that many who planned to col-

lect Mt. Mica envisioned finding a gemmy green or pink tourmaline. Only one person was that lucky.

Our return to Mt. Mica from a fuel and food break in nearby Paris was met by word that someone had discovered a museum quality terminated seven inch long tri-color green gem tourmaline. A short time later, I talked to a lady who said her boyfriend had found that crystalline tourmaline. Sadly, we never got a chance to see it. But just being able to collect at Mt. Mica eased our pain of missing the "big one."

Black schorl tourmaline was abundant along with red garnet and lilac lepidolite. Albite, arsenopyrite, autinite, beryl, biotite and cookite were easy finds. Kaolinite, lollingite, muscovite, rubellite tourmaline, spodumene and smoky quartz were among some 70 other minerals available. We collected, at least, some 16 of the total. Our trip to Mt. Mica was a success. We returned to Augusta tired and happy. But our Maine mineral adventures were not yet done.

Monday, prior to ending our 5 day-4 night stay in Augusta, Linda suggested we go over to Perham's Greenwood Properties. After traveling over a route very similar to a day prior, we passed Mt. Mica and made a visit to Perham's Rock Shop. Then we planned to visit Perham properties in nearby Greenwood and hike up trail to famous Harvard Quarry.

Upon our arrival plans were abandoned. Recent rain had left a sea of deeply rutted mud that would have taken hours to detour. We decided to collect at Tamminen/Waisanen dumps that were just across the access road. This proved to be a good decision.

Rains had washed an abundant mass of mineral material from sides of huge, combined Tamminen/Waisanen dumps. Brilliant pink spodumene was intermingled with plentiful montmorillonite. A few chunks of beryl were also found along with cookeite, cleavelandite and other minerals. This location was the final stop on our Maine mineral symposium tour.

We continued on from Maine, across New Hampshire's interior to Brattleboro, Vermont. There we stayed overnight.

Tuesday would present one more day to collect before heading back to Pennsylvania. We spent several more joyful hours collecting a site near Westmoreland, New Hampshire. Then we moved on to home.

Off-season collecting without weather extremes or insects is usually terrific. This year we were blessed with exceptional cool weather and four opportunities within 7 days.

A day in rock dumps is better than a day getting dumped on at work. We are already looking forward to off-season collecting in Maine next year.

## **New Library Materials**

*by George Gearhardt*

The Standard Deviants Geology Part 1 and Part 2 will be available from our home during the summer until September.

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

**Officers:**

|           |                  |              |
|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| President | Paul Van Schaick | 518-399-5810 |
| Vice Pres | Robert Stitham   | 518-851-5120 |
| Secretary | Helen Eckler     | 518-943-3459 |
| Treasurer | Ruth Schmidt     | 518-943-4876 |

**Newletter Staff:**

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

**Website:**

<[www.albanyrockclub.com](http://www.albanyrockclub.com)>  
check the update section regularly

**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.