

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 2006

Next Meeting

There are no meetings from July-Aug. Please come to the next meeting in September.

Review of June Banquet/Auction

by George Gearhardt

An all time high for attendance as fifty members and guests as well as Cliff Siefried, director at the museum and his wife, as well as Mike Hawkins and Ellen Stevens presided over our semi annual banquet/auction.

This was our club's second dinner/auction at the museum and many new members attended and were properly impressed with the catered meal with tables adjacent to the "mineral gallery" exhibit. The auction (a silent one this time) proceeded smoothly with only a minor "glitch" near the end. The committee tried a new idea to speed up the bidding by using initials or symbols instead of full names on the bid sheets. It did not work as planned but we are learning what works and what does not.

During the time lag between the end of the bidding and the tally takers working, Richard Stein again entertained the group with his hammer dulcimer (he, also learned he needs better lighting to read the music score).

When the totals were done, the seller's took home \$343 and the club treasury grew by \$144. When using a "80-20%" split it's hard to get rich but that was not our intent.

We exchanged minerals, fossils and related hobby items, so the sellers were happy and the buyers had new treasurers to view and enjoy. And that is the point of the auction.

July-Early August Field Trips

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 15. Minerva, NY. Meet at Stewart's Shop 3196 State Route 28, North Creek, NY 12853 (Phone: (518) 251-5234) at 10am (Allow 1

¾ hours from Albany travel time.). Field trip leader Bob Ballard can be contacted at: 518-377-8656 (rballad@nycap.rr.com) to secure a spot. Blue Calcite {major}, Blue and Green apatite, small yellow fluorescent Zircon, graphite can be found. Other minerals are listed so we do not know what all may be found. Tools: Crack hammer and chisel. Bucket to carry rocks and tools. Railroad tracks: We will be walking about a mile on the 1943 railroad track, so chose carefully what tools to bring {tools gain weight every step you take}. Buckets to carry tools in and tools and rocks out do work. Wheelbarrows and sleds have been tried but nothing short of a railroad hand car is easy. What else: No facilities. Bring water, food. The black flies eagerly await our arrival. Bring insect repellent and/or mosquito head nets. Hopefully the Boreas River is down enough to go wading, so bring wading shoes. Some of the best apatites are in the river. Parking: There is somewhat limited parking at the starting point. I suggest people car pool from Albany is possible. We may also car pool from the Stewart's.

July 22. Howes Cave Quarry. Leader Robert Stitham will meet participants at the Schohaire exit on 1-88 (truck stop) at 10 am. Please contact the field trip leader at gumby59@surferz.net if you want to attend. Paul Griggs will then lead us throughout the quarry to collect fossils and see the original cave opening of Howe Caverns. There is an historical museum here as well (but not sure on the hours). Please bring hardhats, gloves, hiking boots, safety goggles, as well as buckets, bug spray, hammers, chisels, etc. You will be collecting many different kinds of fossils. Sometimes travertine (flowstone calcite) is available in small amounts.

July 29. Westmoreland, NH. Stoddard Mine. Trip leader Richard Hartnett. Call to sign up at 439-7243. The meeting place is on the outer edge of the Walmart parking lot towards Route 7 in Brunswick, NY (just up the hill from Troy on Route 7) at 8:00am. Things you can find include light green and dark purple fluorite, barite, small malachite bursts, quartz crystal clusters, barite, and pyrite (perhaps even galena). We will stop in Wilmington, Vermont, at Dot's Diner, for coffee and breakfast; a great rest spot. Stopping at Dot's has become a tradition on this trip. The distance involved from our meeting/departure point in Brunswick was roughly 85 miles each way. Bug spray is a must. Bring chisels, hammers, etc. Working on old mine site in woods.

August 5. Wild Ammonoosuc River Gold Search. Call Bob Ballard at 518-377-8656 (rballad@nycap.rr.com) or Jim Palmer at 518-399-9090 (palmite@nycap.rr.com) to secure a spot. Participants will

drive 4 hours to a location in Vermont where they will pan for gold. Please bring goldpan, wading shoes/shorts/bathingsuit, bug spray, sunscreen, etc. Ankle support recommended for in stream (bring a change of shoes). Campground nearby. Most participants will camp overnite Fri-Sun. Please contact the club email at schmanie@albanyrockclub.com if you want to camp with us.

Field Trip Reports

1. Saint Lawrence Cement Quarry Fossil Trip on May 27th

The weather was hot hazy humid. Field trip leader Bob Stitham with Quarry guy Paul Griggs led the crew into the quarry via cars. Nine people attended the trip: George Drobot, Dick Ackerman, George Yager, Ryan Satiencia, Teka Stitham, Robert Stitham, Anne Woods, Tom Halleran, and Cheryl Halleran. We drove in to the site and were first led to a spot which did not yeild many fossils. Secondly, we were carted off to another location (Teka's blast site), where we had had good luck in the past. Almost everyone went home with cool fossils. Dick and George found angelwing calcite and quartz along the quarry road on the way out.

2. Green Farm Garnet with leader Bob Ballad on June 10th

Bruce was suppose to lead this trip but Charlin ate something that really didn't agree with her and Bruce thought it best to stay home with Charlin. Therefore, not knowing about my navigation skills, Bruce asked me to lead the trip.

Bruce met us at the Gateway diner with maps and we were off. Attending were Art Collins, Ryan Satiroza and Bonnie Unger with her father, conveying from the diner. We met Ed Ryan and children at the Dover McD's and the Pratts at Green's farm for a total of 10 people.

One of the questions on the maps was: What is the name of the road to connecting to Garnet Hill road to the farm, Mallory road or Perkins road? The answer is both. After we turned on South Street, I was leading, [Art carpooled with me] then Ryan followed by Bonnie and Ed. I knew where I was going, so I ignored Mallory road [3 miles on South Street] and drove on to Perkins [4 miles]. Ryan was close enough to follow me, but Bonnie and Ed were too far behind to see me. They followed the map and turned on Mallory road. So we waited after turning on Perkins to be sure the other two cars made the turn. They never showed up. How could I lose two cars on a four mile straight road? It seems Mallory road connects to Garnet Hill road. You just do the mile difference on Garnet Hill road. This mile can be ether scenic and interesting or scary to terrifying depending on how you feel about driving a narrow, hilly, curvy dirt road in the middle of nowhere.

Anyway, we finally all got to Greens farm. The fee is three dollars per car which we gave the owner as he was there. I showed the people the quarry then almost led them to the digging place down the hill. I would have found it on the first shot if I could have taken the path I knew. It has been a wet spring and taking that path would have meant wading through 30 yards of bright green, glossy, ankle high poison ivy. I took a path more to the right and only wandered around for 10 minutes or so until I got my bearings and found the digging site.

Everyone found some garnets and I hope people had a fun time. I think Ed's kids found the most (kid's eyes are closer to the ground) although Bonnie seemed pleased with what she was finding. The sand was wetter than I remember and clung to the crystals making them hard to see. Art and I looked briefly at the quarry but the rock is too compact and one can't get a chisel into it. I asked the owner and he said he would allow my gas powered saw. I will bring it next time but ask again before I use it as I don't think the owner understood what I was talking about.

We saw a deer and her young fawn on South Street on the way home. I hope Art's picture turns out.

I cleaned up my crystals today. Soap and water did a good job but some dirt still remained. A soak in strong HCl [1 part acid plus 4 parts water] did loosen up a lot of the remaining mud. I am trying an Iron Out soak to see if some of the residue is goethite (also known as iron hydroxide or rust). Iron Out will dissolve rust and not hurt garnet.

3. Clarksville, NY Exploratory Trip on June 17th

Leaders Richard Hartnett and Jim Palmer took 8 club members to Clarksville, NY to look for fossils. Some people met at Rich's house and some people met at the Clarksville firehouse parking lot. There was room for only a few cars at the collecting sight, so we transfered people and their tools over in a couple of cars. An amazing fossil plate was found by Jim Palmer upon splitting a large rock. So many great fossils were found on the first site, that some of us never ventured any further to the other sites. After a long afternoon, around 3pm, half the group ventured further under Jim's command into the Clarksville caves. Three of us went inside. One gets into the cave through a woodchuck hole. The limestone cave still has the river of water which made the cave. One can see some fossils in the wall of the cave. Then it was on to the Clarkvillve gorge and look for fossils in the bottom the the creek bed.

New Members

George Yager, 6443 Dis Road, Rome, NY 13440.

Lisa Backman and Richard Van Kempen 212 Benjamin St., Schenectady, NY 12303

Rock and Gem Shows (July-Aug)

July 8-9. Bethel, ME. 45th annual show, "Western Maine Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Festival"; Oxford County Mineral & Gem Association; Crescent Park School, Crescent Lane; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children 50 cents. Contact Albert Holden, 12 Crystal Dr., Newry, ME 04261, (207) 743-8729; e-mail: hgs@megalink.net.

July 8-9. Syracuse, NY. 40th annual show and sale, "Ruby Red Wonders"; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; New York State Fairgrounds, Verizon Center of Progress Bldg., I-690 Exit 7; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, children under 12 free; 41 dealers. Contact Lou Budell, (315) 673-1891; or Web site: www.gmss.us.

July 15-16. Erie, PA. 37th annual show; Gem City Rock & Mineral Society; Perry Hi-way Hose Co., 8270 Peach St., Rte. 19, 1/4 mile south of I-90 exit 24 (old exit 6); Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2.50,

seniors \$1.50, children under 12 free; Contact Bob Gallivan, 427 Colleen Dr., Erie, PA 16505, (814) 454-6770; e-mail: gallivan@mailcity.com; Web site: www.treebeard.net/gemcity/show.htm.

July 29-30. Cutchogue, NY. 25th annual show; Long Island Mineral & Geological Society; Cutchogue East Elementary School, Main Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, children under 12 free with adult; Contact Julie Schwahl, (631) 594-1843; e-mail: adcom2b@msn.com.

July 29-30. South Burlington, VT. 27th annual show; Burlington Gem & Mineral Club; Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors and ages 6-16 \$2, children under 6 free with adult; Contact Kathy Howe, (802) 656-4118; Web site: www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org.

Aug. 5-6. Waterville, ME. 36th annual show; Water-Oak Gem & Mineral Society; Mount Merici School, 152 Western Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; Contact Ellery Borow, P.O. Box 47, Waterville, ME 04903-0047, (207) 547-3154.

Aug. 11-13. West Springfield, MA. Show, "East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Better Living Center, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Dr.; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children 12 and under free with adult; more than 200 U.S. and foreign dealers. 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.

Aug. 18-20. Lebanon, PA. 9th annual show, "Gem Miner's Jubilee"; Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association; Lebanon Expo Center, Rte. 72 and Rocherty Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; admission \$5; Contact MAGMA, (301) 565-0487; e-mail: beadware@erols.com; Web site: www.gem-show.com.

Aug. 26-27. Canton, NY. 40th annual show and swap; St. Lawrence Rock & Mineral Club; Canton Sportsman's Club, Nickerson Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Bill de Lorraine, (315) 287-4652; e-mail: wdellie@northnet.org.

Aug. 26-27. Freeport (L.I.), NY. Annual summer show; Village of Freeport; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, children under 12 free with parent; Contact John Anderson, P.O. Box 551, N. Bellmore, NY 11710, (516) 781-8410.

Aug. 26-27. State College, PA. Show; Nittany Mineralogical Society; Mt. Nittany Middle School, 656 Brandywine Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5, children under 10 free; Contact Bernie Pisarchick, Lodin's Gems & Minerals, 8884 Rte. 219, Brockway, PA, 15824, (814) 265-8887; e-mail: Bernie@Lodins.com; Web site: www.Lodins.com.

EFTA Trips

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

July 8. Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central CT. CCC Quarries, Haddam, CT. simple pegmatite minerals plus schorl, beryl, garnet, columbite. Small abandoned quarries in state forest, no facilities. No limit, see <http://www.lmscc.org/CCCQuarry.htm> for rules, club has permit. Side trips to other local spots possible.

July 9. North Shore Rock and Mineral Club. Wild Ammonoosuc River in NH Gold Panning, sluicing. Contact joergrace@msn.com for details.

July 22. Syracuse.Club. Alden, NY for pyrite/marcasite fossil nodules, bivalves, cephalopods, ammonites, etc. No facilities. Contact *ddsack@twcnv.rr.com for details

July 29. Berks Mineral Society. Calvert Cliffs/Brownies Beach. Sharks teeth, Ray plates, and vertebra. first 20 people Register (717)933-5124

July 30. North Shore Rock and Mineral Club. Raymond, NH Quartz XLs. Contact joergrace@msn.com for details.

July 28th - Aug 3-6 Rochester Lapidary Society. Bancroft, Ontario Canada Show - the Bancroft Gemboree...contact Cindi Newman at kcnewman@frontiernet.net . We have now firmed up our plans for our Bancroft, Ontario field trip...July 29-30th we are meeting for digs, as well as a general invitation to the Gemboree, Aug 3-6th. We will caravan up the 28th of July. You can give my email for anyone with further questions.

Aug.12. Wayne Co. Gem & Min. Alden, NY. Pyritized fossils and nodules. Contact Bill Chapman at batnpill@ptd.net

August 20. The Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Moat Mtn. Bartlett, NH for smoky quartz, microcline, amethyst, topaz, albite, crystals

August 27. Orange County Mineral Society. Wurtsboro Lead Mine. Dig in tailing in this old classic site of Quartz, Pyrite, Chalcopyrite etc. Long walk to the top of the mountain, Bring a camera for great sites to see. People can attend by Contacting George Gardianos at gggard@otimum.net

September, a Time for Learning and Relaxing

by George Gearhardt

Just in, an update from Steve Weinberger, the Wildacres Functioning Committee Chair (part of the Eastern Federation Mineral and Lapidary Society).

"At the conclusion of our May session I was informed by manager Mike House that there would not be another group with us at Wildacres during our fall session. He further informed me that as a result, we could increase the number of participants able to come.

"As of today everyone who previously applied for the September 11 – 17 session has been accepted. With Mike opening up the additional spaces to us, I'm delighted to let you know we now have room for additional participants.

"I'd like to encourage you to seriously consider joining us this fall. Why not make it a "club activity" and bring along one or more of your fellow club members. I know you'll have a wonderful time.

"I've attached a copy of the WA application and information about the classes being offered. Feel free to duplicate the forms as needed.

"For more information, check out the EFMLS website www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm"

To summarize this workshop for members (new and old): is held in western North Carolina between the towns of Spruce Pine and Little Switzerland; the registration forms can be obtained from George and Barbara Gearhardt (518 355 0670 and as much background as you can handle); the fee is \$320. per person; included room and board and workshops (except a small fee for supplies used). It is approximately 900 miles from Albany.

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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.

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