

THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



Publication of the Capital District Mineral Club, Inc.
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P.O. Box 12814, Albany, New York 12212-2814

July 2007

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in SEPTEMBER.

Come One Come All To The
Big Yard Rock Give Away

Betty Phillips was a long time club member. Currently, her family is dispersing her collection. Many boxes of cutting rough {agate, jasper, serpentine, obsidian, geodes, and unknown things} were in boxes on the garage floor. Since Bruce and I are the cutters in the club, other people were not interested in such rocks. It seemed a shame to leave such pretty (at least when I washed off the dust) rocks. So I took them. I filled the back of my trail blazer twice. The result is a pile of rocks in my rose garden one foot high, two feet wide and fifteen feet long. Any club member is invited to stop over and take any rocks you would like. I don't have to be home, just come over and help yourself (to the pile I mentioned). Note: Several club members have already visited the pile and walked off with some very nice minerals. And they did not all take the same things. Everyone is sure to find something they want for cutting or a rock garden. Directions to Bob Ballard's house; 3 Hillside Drive. 377-8656 From the east, south or west, get to Scotia on Rt. 5 or the thruway. From Scotia, take 147 north. Cross the RR bridge. The Bukendaal fire department is on your left and school bus barn on the right. Turn right on Spring Road. Go up the hill about 500 yards and turn right on Heritage Avenue. Go down Heritage until you see the "dead end" sign and turn left on Hillside. I am half way up Hillside on the left. There is a split rail fence in front and a pile of rocks in the garden. From the north: Come south on Rt.147. Turn left on Spring Road etc. Or take Rt.50 to Scotia.

Field Trips

(black fly season has started)

July 7. Hooper Mine. Adirondacks, NY. Field Trip Leader Gerry Boileau. Call to sign up at 482-0511. There will be two meeting spots. (1) Meet at the Gateway Diner on Central Ave in Albany, NY at 10am. (2) meet at McDonalds in Warrensburg just off exit from I-87 (northway) at 11:30am. Trip leader will leave anyone not there before these two times. This trip is to collect Garnets. Please wear long sleeves, long pants, safety glasses, hiking boots, gloves, etc. There is some collecting on the ground, but it is mostly hard rock mining. Bring sledge hammers, bug spray, suntan lotion, chisels, etc. For more information, please call the field trip leader.

July 21. Old Redwing Quarry, Falls Village, CT. Field Trip Leader Robert

Stitham. Call to sign up at 755-2255 and leave a message. Or Email him at gumby59@mhcable.com and wait for a response. There are over 30 minerals found at this location according to the internet. The most readily available is white tremolite sprays. We will meet at the quarry at 10am. Hard hats, gloves, safety glasses, and hiking boots are required. Bring hammers, bug spray, suntan lotion, chisels, etc. Not sure what exactly one will need. For directions to the quarry, just plug in the following address into whatever mapping program you use (mapquest, google maps etc.): [60 Sand Rd, Falls Village, CT 06031].

July 28. 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, suntan lotion, hammers, etc. Working on old mine site in woods.

August 4. Howes Cave Quarry. Leader Robert Stitham will meet participants at the Schohaire exit on I-88 at 10 am. Please contact the field trip leader at gumby59@mhcable.com or call and leave a message at 755-2255 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 (we had to take our shoes off last time). Please bring hardhats, gloves, hiking boots, safety goggles, as well as buckets, bug spray, hammers, suntan lotion, chisels, etc. You will be collecting many different kinds of fossils. Sometimes travertine (flowstone calcite) is available in small amounts. Noted from last trip "On the way there each one of us discovered that the last road sign we needed 'Howes Cave Road' had been turned so that we all went down the wrong road. Luckily for us (but not so lucky for the people on the road), the road in question had 'Road Closed' signs all over it. After each of us went around 2 road closed signs, we each ended up face to face with a road block that went across the entire road. This forced us to turn around and go seek help at the local animal shelter who then told us we were off by one road."

Field Trip Reports

June 2, 2007. Stoddard Mine-Westmoreland, NH

Our field trip left on a muggy morning from the parking lot on Route 7 in

Brunswick. The forecast at our destination - Westmoreland, NH - was for scattered thunderstorms and 87 degrees F. We started out on the trip at 8:15am.

Including the field trip leader, there were seven participants: Bob Kaufman, J. Reed, Chris Reed, Bob Ballard, Kevin Baskin, Kyle Baskin, and Richard Hartnett. This was the field trip leader's approximately 20th time to the Stoddard Mine with the first time being in 1971.

We stopped at Dot's Diner in Wilmington, VT for breakfast and conversation and the staff greeted us with a familiarity borne out of numerous stops there before enroute to Westmoreland.

The weather was nice but humid in New Hampshire; buggy, but all brought bug spray. Although we did not park in the field, there was adequate parking along Poocham Road for our 5 vehicles.

We collected specimens in the lower pit and it was apparent to the four of us who had been there on previous trips that significant digging had changed the landscape. Water had invaded a previous trench and someone must have been dredging rock and artifacts from mining from the water-filled cut.

Bob Ballard commented that he thought the green fluorite was of a lighter color than previously experienced. Good quartz crystal specimens were harder to come by, and the malachite was there, but also hard to find in nice sprays.

Kevin Baskin was able to get his truck up the road with the help of his son, Kyle, who moved a huge log/tree section to allow the truck access to the road. This was a great relief to collectors in getting weighty materials and equipment back to their cars. It only sprinkled rain for a couple of minutes, so we were lucky weather wise.

I stopped at Jim Ray's house on the way out - he owns the field we traverse and have parked in on many previous trips. Over the years, I have gotten to know him and he is a really nice guy with a lovely home and family. He could see us from the high vantage point of his home as we exited to our cars. What he could see and we did not was a large black bear leaving the same trail we had just left.

-Richard Hartnett

June 9. Ironville, NY Blue-green iron slag.

Leader, Bob Ballard. Attending: Anne Woods, Art Collins, Chris and Jay Reed, Rose Marie Warman, Anne Brown, Bob Kaufman.

On a bright sunny morning, we all met at the Frontier Town parking lot just off Exit 29 on the Northway. The collecting location is on Old Furnace Road where the town was digging slag for road fill, about 10 miles from the meeting place.

You can find purple, blue, green and white slag, as well as metallic iron, charcoal [wear gloves as the dirt around the slag is BLACK and coats everything it touches], limestone and magnetite. The last three things being the fuel, flux and ore used to make the iron. This is a good place to collect as you can drive right to the slag and fill your trunk with as much slag as you wish, which several of us did. Some of the slag is in swirl patterns and should cut a nice cabochon. Some of the frozen flow patterns look like sculptures.

At first the black flies did not seem to be there, but the number of dragonflies hovering in the area should have been all the warning we needed. Anne took off her head net to see better. She returned from the hunt looking rather speckled.

A graduate student from Vermont saw us there and wondered what we were doing. He knew more of the history of the area and told us we might want to check out the railroad cut made to haul the ore. Just up the road from the collecting site, we found the 15" deep cut.

Future Explore: I found pieces of pegmatite from the rock thrown up from the cut on the bank. It would be worth walking the cut to see what is there.

The sun proved rather warm toward afternoon, so after getting all the slag we needed, we stopped at the Trading Post just off Exit 29 for ice cream. We then drove the 3 miles west on Rt.2 to some waterfalls. This is a nice place to end the trip. You can find labradorite around the falls and it is a good place just to relax and cool your feet in the water. The falls would make a good summer field trip where we would be wading/swimming below the falls looking for labradorite.

Critter count: Three. We saw deer on the way to the site, a small red bellied snake at the site and on the return an 18" snapping turtle in the road. Not wanting to see the snapper squashed, we stopped, and after a photo session, moved him off. Not only did he snap as I picked him up, I found my hands getting wet and smelly. {Note: This is a second defense. Aside from the ability to bite off a finger, snapper urine is rather foul. If I had been a dog, I would have found a very nasty taste in my mouth at that point.} The urine easily washes off with water.

In all, an easy trip but I think everyone enjoyed it.

-Bob Ballard

June 16. Barrus Ledge, Goshen, MA

Our field trip departed from Brunswick, NY on a beautiful day. Motor-ing through scenic rural countryside, we arrived in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, to meet up with two attendees, Anne Rabe and Randy Weinberg, at Dunkin Donuts.

In addition to Anne and Randy, our group included Bob Ballard, Mark Kilm-er, Christina Akers, Rose Marie Warman, Anne Brown, Tristyn Cramer, and Keven Baskin, as well as the field trip leader Richard Hartnett.

After fueling up with java, we arrived at Barrus Ledge at approximately 10:45am. The llamas were not there to greet us this time (this is a llama farm with about 33 llamas). We were met by John Foulkes, our guide and cousin of the owner of the Barrus Farm.

Tramping through high growth and rocky down slopes, we came upon our collecting areas and began working. Some serious hard rock mining began to reduce the size of boulders.

Notable finds were some micro Goshenite crystals intersecting Indicolite Tourmaline by Richard Hartnett and Elbaite Tourmaline crystals found by John Foulkes. Everyone found Indicolite Tourmaline crystals in matrix pegmatite.

We drove to Lithia, MA to a site also on the Barrus Farm property to

pick up Spodumene crystals in parent rock -- interesting but not gemmy, although Bob Ballard had some green Hiddenite appearing sections on a couple of pieces.

A bit of history: the Barrus Farm has been in the same family since 1795, and is comprised of 1000 acres. The house on the property dates to 1812. Currently, llamas are raised there. On our visit, they were high in the tree line above their pasture to avoid the hot sun, out of sight. A couple of males were in the barnyard.

We ended our field trip around 3:00pm. Rumbblings of thunder heard throughout the time there never quite materialized into a storm.

-Richard Hartnett

2007 Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Field Trip Itinerary

- July 7, 2007.....Mineralogist's GuildLancaster Co., PA Calcite, dolomite, quartz, sphalerite, fluorite 7:45 AM at quarry gate, no persons under age 18, no facilities, 48 hour minimum sign up required and directions through Dave Rieur: +1 (908) 938-5525
- July 21, 2007.....St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club.....Powers Farm, West Pierrepont, NY.....Classic Powers Farm Uvites, and maybe some Uralites.....Contact Bill deLorraine.wdellie@northnet.org
- July 26-29, 2007.....Rochester Lapidary Society: Bancroft, Ontario, Canada. Many sites, variety of minerals. Contact Cindi Newman at kcnwman@frontiernet.net.
- July 28, 2007..... Lapidary and Mineral Society of Central Connecticut.... Case Quarries, Portland, CT..... for beryl and other pegmatite minerals. No facilities. Details at <http://www.lmscc.org/case.htm>
- July 29, 2007.....Boston Mineral Club.....Sanford Vesuviante Locality, Sanford, ME for vesuvianite, grossular garnet, meionite, molybdenite, powellite, scheelite, titanite
- August 4, 2007.....Boston Mineral Club.....Harvard Quarry, Greenwood, ME for pegmatite minerals
- Saturday August 11, 2007.....North Shore Rock and Mineral Club.....Wild Ammonoosuc River, Swiftwater NH.....Gold Panning, Sluicing for Gold.....Camp sites, panning on campground property available, but not required.....Tools-picks and shovels, trowels, gold pans, sluices, etc. Contact Joe Grace....joegrace@msn.com
- August 18, 2007.....Mid-Hudson Valley.... Ilion, NY..... for fluorescent & phosphorescent travertine..No limit. No facilities. Contact sunstone3@hvc.rr.com for details.
- August 18, 2006.....Capital District.... Roxbury, Ct..... for well formed garnet xls and staurolite. Easy digging/screening and tough ledge work for matrix. Small (\$5 per car?) fee. No facilities. Contact phartig@nycap.rr.com for details.
- August 25 & 26, 2007.....St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club.....Powers Farm, West Pierrepont, NY & Bush Farms;.....Classic Powers Farm Uvites, and maybe some Uralites & Bush Farms for the Brown Uvites also known as Dravites and Fluoresces like Dravites.....Contact Bill deLorraine.wdellie@northnet.org
- August 25 & 26 2007.....SACO Valley Gem & Mineral Club..... VAG quarry- Eden Mills, VT- asbestos related minerals, including diopside, gemmy grossular garnets, titanite, vesuvianite \$5.00 per day digging fee. Field trip contact: Bob York 603-356-4424 quartzhunter@aol.com
- September 1-3, 2007Rochester Lapidary Society:Herkimer "Diamonds"..... and Ilion Gorge Travertine..... Contact Cindi Newman at kcnwman@frontiernet.net.
- September 8, 2007.....Capital District.... Minerva, NY.....An old railroad cut, about a mile walk. Main minerals are blue calcite with small graphite and tiny blue apatite crystals included. Also yellow & green calcite, vesuvianite, wollastonite, scapolite, diopside and others in lesser amounts. No facilities. For history buffs - the historic Tahawus mine and village of Adirondak are

a few miles north. Garnet collecting sites are several miles south. Contact phartig@nycap.rr.com for details.

- September 8, 2007.....Mineralogist's GuildLancaster Co., PA Calcite, zeolites, quartz 7:45 AM at quarry gate, no persons under age 18, no facilities, 48 hour minimum sign up required and directions through Dave Rieur: +1 (908) 938-5525
- September 16, 2007.....SACO Valley Gem & Mineral Club..... Moat Mountain- Conway, NH- smoky quartz, microcline, topaz, albite. Field trip contact: Bob York 603-356-4424 quartzhunter@aol.com
- September 22, 2007..... Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association Lancaster Co., PACalcite, dolomite, quartz, sphalerite, fluorite 7:30 AM at quarry gate, no persons under age 18, no facilities, 48 hour minimum sign up and EFMLS card required. Directions through Merrill Dickinson +1(610) 473-9973
- September 27, 2007.....Mineralogist's GuildLancaster Co., PA Calcite, dolomite, quartz, sphalerite, fluorite 7:45 AM at quarry gate, no persons under age 18, no facilities, 48 hour minimum sign up required and directions through Dave Rieur: +1 (908) 938-5525
- September 29-30 Sept. - Franklin Mineral Museum's.....51st Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show.....Franklin School, Washington Ave. Info - Lee Lowell 973/827-3658 Show Treasurer fmm1954@earthlink.net
- October 13, 2007.....Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association Monroe Co., PACalcite, dolomite, fossils, fluorite meet 7:30 AM at exit Saylorsburg of Route 33 North on Cherry Valley Road, no persons under age 18, no facilities, 48 hour minimum sign up and EFMLS card required. Directions through Merrill Dickinson +1 (610) 473-9973
- October 13, 2007 Delaware Mineralogical Society. JT Dyer Quarry, Gibraltar, PA... Collect: zeolites, pyrite and calcite.Limit 10 people, working quarry rules. Need safety glasses, rock hammer, chisels, hardhat, and steel-toed boots. Contact glauconite5@yahoo.com for details.
- October 21, 2007 Delaware Mineralogical Society. Liberty Lake Mine Dumps. North of Sykesville MD. Limit 10 people. Note: There will be a 3/4 mile hike along the reservoir to the collecting area. Minerals to collect include pyrite, magnetite, chalcopyrite, malachite smudges, and more. Need safety glasses, rock hammer, and chisels. Contact glauconite5@yahoo.com for details.

Rock Shows 2007

- July 14-15. Syracuse, NY. 41st annual show, "Treasures of the Earth"; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; Verizon Center of Progress Bldg., State Fairgrounds, I-690; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6, kids under 12 free; \$1 off coupon on Web site, more than 50 retail and wholesale dealers, rough, minerals, gems, beads, beading supplies, jewelry, lapidary supplies, fossils, exhibits, demonstrations, hourly door prizes, grand prizes, kids' activities; contact Cathy Patterson, (315) 638-8817; Web site: www.gmss.us.
- July 28-29. Cutchogue, NY. 26th 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, (631) 594-1843; e-mail: adcom1a@msn.com; or Maureen; e-mail: adcom2b@msn.com.
- July 28-29. South Burlington, VT. 28th annual show, "Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show"; Burlington Gem & Mineral Club; Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors and students 6-16 \$2, children under 6 free with adult; Contact Kathy Howe, (802) 656-4118; Web site: www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org.
- August 25-26. Canton, NY. 41st annual show; St. Lawrence County Mineral Club; Sportsman's Club, Nickerson Rd.; contact William deLorraine, (315) 287-4652; e-mail: wdellie@northnet.org.
- August 25-26. Freeport, NY. Annual summer show; Village of Freeport; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4.50, children under 12 free with parent; contact John Andersen, P.O. Box 551, North Bellmore, NY 11710, (516) 781-8410; e-mail: janders4@optonline.net.

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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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