

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 2011

No Meetings July-August

June-July Field Trip Schedule

June 25. Batchellerville, NY. Richard Hartnett 439-7243. Meeting place will be at the Scotia/Glenville High School at 10am. There is a limit of 18 participants allowed on site. Do not enter the site or property without the field trip leader. Bring mine dump digging tools, bug spray, and small rock hammer. Minerals found: Aquamarine beryl, Muscovite/Biotite Mica, zircon, smokey/rose quartz, schorl tourmaline, and white/pink feldspar. We will be departing the site as a group at 4pm sharp. Parking is limited, so carpooling is necessary. No facilities. Bring 5 gallon buckets or backpacks to carry specimens to cars. Releases must be signed before participation can be granted.

July 16. Batchellerville, NY. Richard Hartnett 439-7243. Meeting place will be at the Scotia/Glenville High School at 10am. There is a limit of 18 participants allowed on site. Do not enter the site or property without the field trip leader. Bring mine dump digging tools, bug spray, and small rock hammer. Minerals found: Aquamarine beryl, Muscovite/Biotite Mica, zircon, smokey/rose quartz, schorl tourmaline, and white/pink feldspar. We will be departing the site as a group at 4pm sharp. Parking is limited, so carpooling is necessary. No facilities. Bring 5 gallon buckets or backpacks to carry specimens to cars. Releases must be signed before participation can be granted.

July 23 - Stowe Gold Panning Gold Panning Field Trip. Robert Ballad 377-8656. Gold Brook, Stowe, Vermont. Gold panning in Gold Brook near Stowe, Vermont. Meeting place and time: The covered bridge over Gold Brook. I will be at the covered bridge at 12 noon to teach anyone who does not know how to gold pan how to pan. Otherwise show up and pan away whenever you get there. Equipment: Gold pan (I have some extra ones, call if you need me to save you one). Tools for digging in the stream: small shovel, rock hammer, pry bar for moving rocks, small bucket to collect the black sand you pan. Screens for separating bigger rocks from the finer gold containing sand. We will be wading in the stream, so tennis shoes or some such wading shoes, swim trunks, towel etc. Bug repellent. Directions. (The quickest way from Albany) Take I 87 to Exit 20 (I think, my map doesn't show exit numbers) Route 149. Follow Rt 149 to Fort Ann then Rt 4 North to Whitehall and on to Rutland. Turn north on Rt 100 and Rt 107 to Bethel and head North on I 89. Drive to Exit 10,

Stowe. Head north on Rt 100 {Ben and Gerries ice cream factory, good place to stop, just after heading north} 8 miles to Gold Brook. Travel time from Albany about 3 ½ hours. Turn right just after Rt 100 crosses Gold Brook. Cross the stream again and turn left. This road runs along the stream and the covered bridge is about a mile up this road. Turn left to cross the bridge. Facilities: None but Stowe is close by. The gold Brook Camp Ground is just before you cross the stream on Rt 100.

EFTA Trips

June 11, 2011. Capital District Mineral Club...Rickard Hill Quarry, Schoharie, NY...Fossils in active quarry. Contact Anne Woods 518-322-7932 (leave message) or e-mail schmanie@albanyrockclub.com. Meet at 10am at the quarry gate. no facilities. May need cart to haul fossils to car. Many different interesting fossils.

June 18, 2011...St. Lawrence County Mineral Club...W. Pierrepont, NY...Meet at Burger King, Rt. 11 Canton, departing at 9am. Anyone wishing to attend this field trip please contact William deLorraine, 315-287-4652 or wdellie@verizon.net.

July 23, 2011... Capital District Mineral Club...Stowe, VT ...gold panning. Contact Robert Ballad 518-377-8656 or rballad@nycap.rr.com. Prepare to get wet. Water shoes, gold pan, bug spray, little bottle to collect gold in (if you are lucky).

August 14, 2011.....North Shore Rock and Mineral Club... Wild Ammonoosuc River, Bath NH. Tools: Gold pan, sluice, pick, shovel, bucket, collecting bottle, small digging tools, etc. No facilities. Gold flakes and maybe nuggets. Contact joergrace@msn.com for directions and trip leader email contact.

August 27, 2011...St. Lawrence County Mineral Club... Pierrepont, NY...Power's Farm: during the St. Lawrence County Mineral's Club's 45th Annual Show in Madrid, NY. Meet at the Madrid Community Center, leaving our show site at 9:00. For more information, please contact William deLorraine, 315-287-4652 or wdellie@verizon.net.

August 28, 2011...St. Lawrence County Mineral Club... Pierrepont, NY...Bush Farm: during the St. Lawrence County Mineral's Club's 45th Annual Show in Madrid, NY. Meet at the Madrid Community Center, leaving our show site at 9:00. For more information, please contact William deLorraine,

315-287-4652 or wdellie@verizon.net

October 8 and 9, 2011....Walworth Quarry (Dolomite Products Co.) Open House, 1200 Atlantic Ave, Walworth, NY 14568 Safety Meeting Mandatory - sign in 6:45AM. Well-supervised children allowed. Must have hard hat (children may wear bicycle helmets), safety glasses, sturdy boots, long pants. Minerals to be found - dolomite, fluorite, selenite, sphalerite, celestine, gypsum, and clam, coral, crinoid, stromatolite fossils.

Oct 28-29, 2011... Capital District Mineral Club...Vermont rocks...Contact Bill Cotrofeld 802-375-6782 for more information. Locations to be announced at a later date.

Field Trip Report: Lafarge Quarry, Ravena, NY

The May 14 trip to our favorite quarry was well attended – twenty adults and two children. For those interested in fossils, it was a good day.

We returned to the fossil site we visited in 2010 to find the banks had been broken down and spread out, permitting access to much more material than could have been exposed by digging. The fossiliferous were justly rewarded. In fact, one of the best cephalopods found in the field by club members was left behind – to be recovered at a later date with power tools to avoid damage to the specimen.

For those interested primarily in crystals it was, unfortunately, a bad day. The original plan was to divide the time between fossil and crystal sites. When we arrived, we were informed that the special area where we have had much success was being filled in (covered over) with waste rock. Quarry staff had checked out alternate sites for us, but on this day the big trucks were running, so we could not wander about the quarry ((note number of vehicles in photo)). An effort will be made to get one last trip to the outback. If positive, such a trip would probably have to be arranged on short notice, with emails and phone calls perhaps only days in advance. WE SHALL TRY !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! (large photo available in PDF version of newsletter)

- Rich Stein



Showdates Calendar

July 9-10—BETHEL, MAINE: 50th annual show; Oxford County Mineral & Gem Association; Telstar High School; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children under 12 free; dealers, specimens, jewelry, gem rough, museum-quality displays, fluorescent mineral booth, demonstrations, gold panning, capping, door prizes, grand prize; contact Randy Withee, 34 Morse Rd., Norway, ME 04268, (207) 595-8346; (207) 595-8346; e-mail: oxfordcountymineralandgemassoc@gmail.com; Web site: www.oxfordcountymineralandgemassociation.blogspot.com

July 9-10—SYRACUSE, NEW YORK: 45th annual show, "Gems Along the Erie Canal: A Diamond Celebration"; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; New York State Fairgrounds, Center of Progress Bldg., I-690; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; competitive exhibits, lectures, workshops, demonstrations, kids' activities, minerals, fossils, beads, metaphysical stones, AMFS and EFMLS Convention meetings July 6-8; contact Cathy Patterson, (315) 638-8817; e-mail: cathy.patterson@verizon.net; Web site: www.gmss.us

July 16-17—CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE: Annual show; Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Kennett Middle School, 176 Main St. (Rte. 16); Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, seniors \$2, children under 16 are free; displays, keynote speaker, children's corner, Treasure Hunt; contact Robert York, 15 Falcon Way, Hales Location, NH 03860, (603) 356-4424; e-mail: SacoMineralClub@aol.com; Web site: sacovalleygmc.org

July 16-17—ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA: 42nd annual show; Gem City Rock & Mineral Society; JMC Ice Arena, 423 W 38th St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors \$2, children under 12 free; rocks, gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, wire wrapping, findings, beads, Mini-Mine, Discovery Blocks; contact Bob Gallivan, (814) 454-6770; e-mail: gallivan@lycos.com; Web site: www.gemcity-rockclub.org/show.htm

July 22-24—HAMBURG, NEW YORK: Show and sale; GemStreet USA; Erie County Fairgrounds, The Grange Bldg., 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7, seniors (60+) and students (12-17) \$5, children under 12 free; gems, jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-4367; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

July 28-31—BANCROFT, ONTARIO, CANADA: Annual show; Bancroft & District Chamber of Commerce; Bancroft Arena and Curling Club, 63 Newkirk Blvd.; Thu. 10-7, Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$8, youth (12 and under) \$6; mineral dealers, gemstone jewelry, lapidary supplies, mineral identification, swap tables, field trips; contact Kim Forge, 12 Flint Ave., Bancroft, ONT K0L1C0, (613) 332-1513; e-mail: kimf@bancroftdistrict.com; Web site: www.bancroftdistrict.com

July 30-31—RIVERHEAD (LONG ISLAND), NEW YORK: 30th annual show; Long Island Mineral & Geology Society; Riverhead High School, 700 Harrison Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children under 12 free; exhibits, sales, minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary, jewelry makers, repairs, wire wrapping, precious and semiprecious beads, pearls, amber, antique jewelry, geode cracking, grand door prize; contact Frank Basile, (631) 398-6066; e-mail: cypernut@optonline.net

July 30-31—SOUTH BURLINGTON, VERMONT: 32nd annual show; Burlington Gem & Mineral Club; Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset St.; dealers, exhibits, lectures, demonstrations, children's activities, silent auction, door prizes; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors and students (6-16) \$2, children under 6 free with adult; contact Jeff Higgins, (802) 849-6076; e-mail: www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org

NYS Museum Goes to the Parks 2011

July 16, 2011 : 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Registration: Registration Required. Location: Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center at John Boyd Thacher State Park. Description: Help

commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center by joining scientists from the NY State Museum for a walk exploring the geology surrounding Thacher Nature Center. Participants provide own transportation. Program Schedule Bedrock Geology, 1–3 p.m. Sedimentary geologist Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten leads an easy walk to explore the geology and fossils around Thacher Nature Center. Limited to 20 people, ages 8 and up with adult. Registration required. Directions will be sent with confirmation. To register, call 518-473-7154 or e-mail psteinba@mail.nysed.gov.

Helen Mary Eckler

I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to attend a Memorial Service in her honor. The service will be held on July 9th at 7:00pm at the Leed's Firehouse. Light refreshments and beverages will be served. Anyone wishing to speak will be welcome to. Easiest directions from the north: Take NY State Thruway to exit 21 Catskill. Turn right at onto 23B and proceed approx. 1 mile. Firehouse is located on the right. Across the street from Koch's Restaurant.

-- Ruth Pforte (Volunteer Coordinator, Greene County Department for the Aging, 411 Main Street, Catskill, NY 12414; 1-518-719-3555; rpforte@discovergreene.com)

Rock and Gem Magazine

Just so you all know...Rock and Gem magazine is now available for a lower price than newsstand price as a digital subscription on www.zinio.com for \$10.00.-Anne Woods

CDMC Logo Items

I put together a website to allow club members to purchase items with the club logo on it. I made sure to leave it so that no one gets profit from the sales. It is through www.cafepress.com. It is not searchable. You need to type the entire web address into your browser window to find it (I did this to keep it within the club). The address is: [www.cafepress.com/cdmc]. It is a bit more pricey than the \$12 t-shirts we got last time a t-shirt committee was formed, but the fabric is higher quality and so are the graphics. I will leave it up to you all to decide if it is worth it to you or not to purchase, but it is there if you want it, or always wanted a t-shirt, and didn't get one last time. There are mugs, stickers, t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, etc. You get to pick your size, color, etc.

-Anne Woods

Marian

Last Thursday, June 30th, the NYS mineralogist (actually curator geology/mineralogy), Dr. Marian Lupulescu, received a termination notice, effective in 20 days. He was one of five research-active science curators at the New York State Museum (NYSM) who was terminated. The others were in paleontology (1), and anthropology (3). If this decision stands, the three most important collections the NYSM holds will be without qualified curators.

I was in the field with Marian last Tuesday. At that time, the NYSM plan for meeting their budget deficit was NO layoffs and furloughs for everyone during the next year to close the

budget gap. All the staff had been notified of that reality. Apparently the DOB (department of budget) overrode the leadership of the museum and fired the five science curators.

I find it ironic that shortly after the NYS Senate voted to make the Herkimer diamond the official NYS mineral, another part of state government fires the state mineralogist.

This is a disaster for mineral collectors. Since arriving, Marian has worked tirelessly to determine and publish the correct identification for minerals from NYS. He has done major work on amphiboles and in the process discovered and published two new to science. He has also done a comprehensive survey of the tourmaline species in the state so we know how to label our tourmalines. Marian has published numerous articles in Rocks and Minerals and is a member of the organizing committee for the technical session at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium.

Eventually, if the mineral collection, one of the finest state collections of minerals in the US continues to have no curator, it will lapse into obscurity. The mineral exhibits, currently the most popular exhibits at the NYSM will become dated, with incorrect identifications and out of date explanations. Ultimately, the safety of our NYS mineral collection could be in jeopardy.

I most strongly encourage you, on behalf of your club, to write the governor, the commissioner of education and your NYS senator and ask them to intervene and rescind these termination notices. Spreading the word to get other people to write letters would also be helpful.

Please write as soon as possible. This is a crisis and much is at stake.

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dr. John B. King, Jr.
Commissioner of Education
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

Senator David J. Valesky
333 East Washington Street
805 State Office Building
Syracuse, NY 13202
(This is my state senator who is likely to be able to help.)

Thank you,

Steve Chamberlain
Coordinator, Center for Mineralogy
New York State Museum
Chairman, Rochester Mineralogical Symposium



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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.

The Capital Rockhounder and the Capital District Mineral Club are not responsible for the accuracy or authenticity of any information in the articles printed in this newsletter. Nor are the opinions here expressed necessarily those of the officers of the Capital District Mineral Club nor of the Newsletter Staff as a whole.