

THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



Publication of the Capital District Mineral Club, Inc.
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June 2010

Meeting

There will be no meetings in the museum from June-August. We will have a banquet and auction in June. Please see information on this later in the newsletter.

Field Trips

In order to attend a field trip, you must contact and receive an answer from the field trip leader before arriving on site. If you are a new member, please bring your ID card with you so that we can verify that you are indeed a member of our club. Any questions as to how to get to the meeting location can be asked when you sign up with the field trip leader.

June 12. Litchfield Quarry - Utica, NY. Field trip leader Robert Stitham will meet expected field trip participants outside the quarry at 10am. To sign up, please email Robert Stitham at gumbyr13@yahoo.com (include your name and phone number in case of last minute cancellation. wait for a response by email before assuming you are signed up). Do not call Robert. You will need hardhat, gloves, safety glasses, fluorescent vest, hiking boots or steel toed (preferred). Tools needed include rock hammer, prybar, chisels, sledge hammer, buckets, newspaper or paper towels to wrap up specimens, bug spray, suntan lotion, not sure about digging, sieves, etc. If in doubt, bring it, and you can always leave it in the car. Fossils you may find at the Barrett Paving/Litchfield Quarry include: brachiopods, bryozoans, curled and straight cephalopods, corals, echinoderms, gastropods, pelecypods, mollusk-like forms, sponges, and trilobites. Anyone that shows up without making a reservation with Robert will be sent home.

June 19. 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.



Field Trip Report:

Lafarge Quarry, Ravena, NY
by Rich Stein

Well, the season is off to an ((inauspicious, rainy, cold, windy, muddy – pick one)) start. Or at least it would seem to be so. May 8th started very wet – the trip to the meeting place and into the quarry office were entirely in the rain. The greeting and safety instruction were given by Ran Tamir, Quarry Superintendent. As we departed the rain let up somewhat; not much later it stopped entirely and it remained dry for the duration of our visit. This has almost become a pattern for Spring visits to Ravena. Perhaps we are not appeasing the weather Gods? Does anyone know an anti-rain dance?

Collecting was limited to the familiar spot at the extreme northern end of the quarry. Significant bulldozing had been done at the site to make new material available to us. Unfortunately, in this instance the yield was not as fruitful as in the past. The seams were there but they were thin, with small crystal growth or simply thin sheet-type growth. Of course, this was not universal – some very nice pieces were found, and a very few large single crystals jumped up and bit the intruders ((so anxious to be found they simply waited in open spaces against dark background with no attached matrix)).

One of the highlights of the day was a parade by a family of geese – mom, dad and five fuzzy goslings – which took them most of an hour to complete, nearly circumventing the col-

lection site. Probably heading to the large pond nearby – still a long waddle for the newborns.

Considering the bad weather forecast, the sixteen folks who showed up represented 50% of those who had planned to be there. One member did, unfortunately, arrive too late to join us for the ride to the quarry office. Those attending: Richard Stein – Leader, Max Fischer, Anne Woods, Jo-anna Michalek, Kevin Baskin, Robert Stitham, William Perry, Ken St. John, Robert Ballard, Carole and Joseph Van Camp, Steve Kelland, Debra Hewson, Bill Cotrofeld, Gregg Steuben and Sue Cifaratta.

June Banquet

On Thursday June 3, the Capital District Mineral Club will be having a banquet at Evans Public House Restaurant. The festivities will start at 6:30pm, with dinner at 7:00pm. Garlic green beans and wild rice pilaf have been added to the menu. Reminder, reservations were due on May 25 to Mark Kilmer.

June Live Auction

Mark Kilmer and another CDMC member will be entertaining us by being our live auctioneers. Please bring three (3) items per person attending the banquet. There will be an 80-20 split on profits. 80% goes to the member, and 20% goes to the club. Please bring items that would be of interest to a rockhound: a mineral, rock, gemstone, or fossil specimen, a flat of items that will go as one bid (think of a beginners collection, or all one kind of mineral from different locations, or an old collection, or empty one of your buckets from a dig), old maps, a rock crusher, rock related books, jewelry, etc. (make sure all items are properly labeled with specimen name and location). Please note that bids that start low tend to do better in the bidding war. Bidding will occur in increments of one dollar (\$1) with a starting bid of one dollar (\$1).

Capital District Mineral Club Thursday May 6, 2010 Minutes *by Curtis Breuer*

Met at the New York State Museum at 7:00, thirty-one members were in attendance. Meeting was called to order at 7:38 by President Bill Cotrofeld. There were five members attending their first meeting. The program began with Bill giving a slide presentation about the mineral club starting, early history, and early collecting trips. After, Rich Stein gave his annual safety talk. There was a short break with the raffle being sold and minerals judged. There was \$39.00 made in the raffle. Secretary's Report was given by Curtis Breuer; the report stands approved, with no audit. No treasurer's Report. Banquet Committee: spoke of the banquet at 6:30 on May 25th. Field Trip Committee: announced May field trips. No new/old business. The meeting was closed at 9:20.

Mineral of the Month:

Epidote $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2(\text{Fe}^{3+},\text{Al})(\text{SiO}_4)(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)\text{O}(\text{OH})$

by Curtis Breuer

Not one of the most spectacular minerals from a crystal specimen perspective, but epidote plays an important role in geology and makes a great accessory mineral. Epidote has a hardness between 6 and 7 on Mohs hardness scale, and is typically green. It is also a silicate mineral and has a prismatic crystal structure. Epidote can be found in crystals as well as inclusions in quartz crystals, making unique specimens. Also, epidote is found in many rocks as massive grains or merely as coloration. Notable locations are Alaska, United States; Baja, Mexico; and Untersulzbachtal, Austria. In New York State, epidote has been found in many rocks and as crystals in Brant Lake; Peckham Quarry, Chester-town; and Harrisville.

There will be no awards for any specimens this month, but be sure to try and collect some epidote this summer to bring to the September meeting!

Collectors Corner: Collecting Trips!

by Curtis Breuer

The actual storage and display of specimens has now been discussed. Also, we have discussed various ways to acquire specimens. This article consists of tips, tricks, and things to keep in mind as we go out collecting this season.

Summer is basically here and it is time that to start collecting (if you haven't already). Here are a few tips and tricks to help any new/old collectors that I have personally learned or things that have been taught to me by other members.

- Keep chisels sharpened. This is to make sure there are no metal shards flying off.
- Throw out any bent or broken chisels. Buy new chisels, or check out some second-hand tool shops to restock your supply.
- Know your limitations when collecting. Do not bring heavy hammers that you can not swing. Bring what you can use, and bring what works.
- Never go collecting alone. If you ever are in need of a collecting buddy, make a phone call to a club member and make new friends!
- Take what you really want in your collection, leave specimens at a site that you don't really need for other collectors to find.
- Pack plenty of supplies. This includes food, water, medical supplies and any kind of packing materials.
- For those collecting pristine crystals, it is important to remember that crystals can crack in the sun. Put crystals into a bucket of water or wrap them in wet paper towels to keep them cool.
- Allow plenty of time to properly pack specimens, there is nothing worse than finding some nice specimens and then them breaking on the way home.
- If you do not have a large tool selection, ask friends to borrow tools in order to find tools that you would like to eventually purchase.

Show Dates

June 12. Kent, CT: 8th annual show; Connecticut Antique Machinery Association, Danbury Mineralogical Society; museum grounds, 1 mile north of Kent on Rte. 7; Sat. 9-4; free admission; rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, buy and trade, new mining museum exhibits; contact Connecticut Antique Machinery Association, (860) 927-0050; www.ctamachinery.com

June 26-27. Gilsum, NH: Show, "Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show"; Town of Gilsum; Gilsum Elementary School, Rte. 10; Sat. 8-6, Sun. 8-4; free admission; more than 60 dealers, buy, sell or swap, beryl, quartz crystals, semiprecious stones, rocks, minerals, displays (specimens, fossils, hand-crafted jewelry); contact Rob Mitchell, Gilsum Recreation Committee, P.O. Box 76, Gilsum, NH 03448, (603) 357-9636; e-mail: gilsumrocks@gmail.com

July 10-11. Bethel, ME: 49th annual show; Oxford County Mineral & Gem Association; Telstar Regional High School, 284 Walkers Mills Rd. (Rte. 26); Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children under 12 free; contact Hugh Chapman, (207) 836-2987, or Dennis Brown, (207) 647-2154; oxfordcountymineralandgemassoc@gmail.com; www.oxfordcountymineralandgemassociation.blogspot.com

July 17-18. North Conway, NH: Show, "Saco Valley Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Festival"; Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club; North Conway Community Center, 2628 White Mountain Hwy.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; silent auctions, Spin-a-Gem, children's gem dig, gem, mineral and jewelry displays; contact Bob York, (603) 356-4424; quartzhunter@aol.com

July 24-25. South Burlington, VT: 31st 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; dealers, exhibits, lectures, demonstrations, children's activities, silent auction, door prizes; contact Kathy Howe, (802) 656-4118; Web site: www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org

July 31-Aug. 1. Cutchogue, NY: 29th annual show; The Long Island Mineral & Geology Society; Mattituck - Cutchogue East Elementary School, Main Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children under 12 free with adult; jewelry, minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary, grand door prize; contact Frank Basile, 975 Rambler Rd., Southold, NY 11971; e-mail: cypernut@optonline.net; Web site: www.limineralandgeology.com

August 13-15. West Springfield, MA: Show, "East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions LLC; Better Living Center, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Dr.; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, ages 12 and under free with adult; more than 200 dealers from the U.S. and abroad, door prizes, guest speakers, museum-quality exhibits, gem panning, large wholesale section, collection of Bill Larson, Pala Int'l; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, fax (303) 223-3478; e-mail: mzexpos@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

August 21-22. Madrid (Canton), NY: 44th annual show; St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club; free admission;

outdoor/indoor show, kids' fluorescent mineral hunt Fri., mineral-collecting field trips, free wire wrapping lessons, geode cracking, swapping; contact William deLorraine, (315) 287-4652; e-mail: wdellie@verizon.net; Web site: www.Stlawrencecountymineralclub.org

August 28-29. Concord, NH: 47th annual show, "Gem & Mineral Festival"; Capital Mineral Club; Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Rd., I-94 exit 14; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, kids 12 and under free with parent; retail and wholesale dealers, displays, raffles, door prizes, minerals, crystals, faceted gems, books, magazines, fossils, jewelry, carvings, displays, free mineral for kids under 12; contact Scott P. Higgins, (207) 439-1107; www.capitalmineralclub.org

August 28-29. Freeport, NY: Show; [Freeport Recreation Center]; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd., Meadowbrook Pkwy. exit M9 west; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5.50, children under 12 free with adult; dealers, minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils, beads, save 50 cents with this ad; contact Ralph Gose, P.O. Box 1418, Melville, NY 11747, (631) 271-8411; e-mail: kaleidoscopegemshows@yahoo.com

2010 EFTA Trip Schedule

June 26. WayneCo.GMC. Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground, 161 County Highway 114, St. Johnsville, NY 13452 (<http://www.crystalgrove.com/Kampgrounds>) Specimens: "Herkimer Diamonds" (Quartz Crystals). Also trilobite search at stop near Little Falls. Contact: Bill Lesniak at dirtman300@aol.com for details.

July 24-25. Capital District Mineral Club. Gouverneur, NY region. Contact trip leader Gerry Pratt 518-392-0453 to register and for more information.

July 31. Capital District Mineral Club. Roxbury, CT. Contact trip leader Gerry Boileau 518-482-0511 to register and for more information. Digging for garnets and staurolite, through hard rock or through dirt.

August 8. Capital District Mineral Club. Minerva, NY. Contact trip leader Curtis Breuer 518-494-7538 to register and for more information. Long walk to site - various minerals, some fluorescent, contact metamorphic zone, melted apatite, zircon, dravite, calcite, etc.

August 21. St. Lawrence County Mineral Club. Pierrepont, NY. Power's Farm: during the St. Lawrence County Mineral's Club's 44th Annual Show in Madrid, NY. Leaving our show site at 9:00. Meet at the Community Building at the 2010 Show in Madrid, NY. Anyone wishing to attend please contact William deLorraine, 315-287-4652 or wdellie@verizon.net.

October 9 & 10. 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. For more info: Pat Chapman at batnpill@empacc.net for details.

MORE LAFARGE PICTURES

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANNE WOODS



Clockwise starting top left: Bob Stitham resting in trunk; Bob Ballard sawing out a quartz crystal cluster; vultures circling overhead in a stormy sky; geese family walking through quarry; Carol van Camp; center: note how easily the walls fall in here.



STERLING HILL MINE-NJ

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBERT STITHAM



Left: Steve Kelland and Anne Woods at rock sale.
Right: Sandy and George Drobot, Anne Woods, and Bob Ballad at rock dig.



MARGARET HASTINGS MINE - FONDA, NY

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANNE WOODS



Top left: Linda, owner and person you pay when you arrive (note large herk she is holding). Top right: Claim #34 (note the heavy vegetation and absence of hole). Bottom left: mailbox identifying driveway. Bottom right: view from the road into the parking lot of the claims.





Gilsum Rock Swap.

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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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