

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

March 2006

March Meeting

The March meeting of the Capital District Mineral Club will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2006. We will meet in Meeting Room B on the main floor of the New York State Museum, Madison Ave., Albany, NY (unless otherwise noted at the front security desk). Please sign in and out at the security desk. The museum doors will be open from 7:00-7:15pm and the meeting will begin around 7:30pm. Please be on time since after 7:15pm sharp, we will no longer let you in.

March Program

Submitted by Bruce Murray (Program Chairman)

Collecting Earth's Natural Treasures
(no mention of air, water, soil, etc.)

A 50 minute video shows an introduction to the fun of collecting minerals, the wonder of fossils, and basic lapidary techniques. This is a good overview of our hobby and also includes a stop at the Tucson show in Arizona.

Review of February Meeting

We learned about mineral identification from our own member Bruce Murray. We split up into groups and identified unknown minerals using Moh's scale (hardness), streak (color the mineral makes on unglazed porcelain, etc). Fun was had by all.

We had our final discussions about the 13th Annual James Campbell Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show and Sale. We planned a field trip meeting in which we came up with the tentative list of field trips below. We (some of us) ended the night at Denny's on Wolf Rd in Colonie for icecream and whatnot. If ya'all want to join us next time, just contact Gerry at the meeting.

Tentative Field Trip List

April 8 - Mohawk River Trip (River Rocks) - Jim Palmer
April 22 - Margaret Hastings Claim, Fonda, NY Trip
(Herkimer Diamonds) - Jim Palmer

April 29-30 - Trotter Dump Diggg, Franklin/SterlingHill, NJ (fluorescent rocks) - on your own
May 13 - Schoharie, NY stream (Pyrite concretions) - Bob Ballard
May 27 - Saint Lawrence Cement (SLC) Quarry (Fossils) - Bob Stitham
June 10 - Green Garnets Farm, Roxbury, CT (Garnets) - Gerry Boileau
June 17 - Knox/Berne Clarkesville Exploratory Trip (fossils) - Jim Palmer/Richard Hartnett
July 15 - Outcrop in Minerva, NY (Blue calcite, etc.) - Bob Ballard
July 29 - Stoddard Mine, NH (Fluorite) - Richard Hartnett
August 5-6 - Gold Panning, Wild Ammoumoosic River, on border of VT/NH camping trip - Jim Palmer/Bob Ballard
August 14-19 (one day trip) - Barton Scientific Tour (garnets) - Bob Ballard
September 9 - Cascade Lake, NY Exploratory (various minerals) - Bob Ballard
September 16-17 - Saint Clair, PA (Fern/Plant Fossils) - Anne Woods/Bob Stitham
September 30 - Margaret Hastings Claim, Fonda, NY Trip (Herkimer Diamonds) - Jim Palmer
October 14 - Illion Gorge, Illion, NY (Travertine) - Bob Ballard (possibly Gerry Boileau)

Upcoming Mineral Shows

March 4-5. Newark (Stanton), DE. 43rd annual show; Delaware Mineralogical Society; Delaware Technical and Community College, I-95 exit 4B, Churchmans Rd. (Rte. 58); Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5, seniors \$4, juniors \$3, children under 12 free with adult; Contact Gene Hartstein, (302) 234-4488; e-mail: fossilnut@aol.com; or Wayne Urion, (302) 998-0686; e-mail: wurion@aol.com.

March 4-5. New York, NY. Show; Excalibur Mineral Corp., New York Mineralogical Club; Holiday Inn-Midtown, 440 W. 57th St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-6; admission \$6; Contact Excalibur, 1000 N. Division St., Peekskill, NY 10566, (914) 739-1134.

March 11-12. Clifton, NJ. 17th annual show; North Jer-

sey Mineralogical Society; Pope John Paul II Elementary School, 775 Valley Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun 10-5; Contact Bob Horn, (908) 813-0808; e-mail: Mineraldog@comcast.net.

March 25-26. Old Westbury, NY. 34th annual show; Island Rock Hounds; Post Rd. and Jericho Tpke.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Contact Susan Melazzi, 641 S. 8th St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757-5520, (631) 956-3960.

March 25-26. Sayre, PA. 37th annual show; Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club; Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, 150 Herrick Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, students \$1, kids under 8 free; Contact Hazel Remaley, 3298 Centerville Rd., Gillett, PA 16925; e-mail: northridge@infoblvd.net.

April 1-2. Hamburg, NY. Show, "Fool's Gold--Not the Real Thing; Buffalo Geological Society; Fairgrounds, Grange/Market Bldgs., S. Park Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children 12 and under free; Contact Robert J. Hoffman, 65 Cheekwood Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14227, (716) 656-8475.

April 1-2. Johnson City, NY. 37th annual show; New York Southern Tier Geology Club; Johnson City Senior Center, Brockton St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Contact Valerie McMartin, (607) 625-2087; e-mail: val@stny.rr.com.

March to May, Rockhounding Season Begins

by Don Kauffman

February snows disappear and rockhounding sites start to open up. Beginning in March, hopeful winds of change blow to promise indoor and outdoor rockhounding event opportunities. Two perennial favorites are the EFMLS Wild Acres Workshop in North Carolina and the Maine Mineral Symposium in Augusta. Looking forward to May, you might consider one of these events.

Although we have not attended Wild Acres, talking with other rockhounds from New York and Pennsylvania there is high praise for this annual workshop. Several couples have attended the program more than once.

For over 30 years Eastern Federation enthusiasts have hosted rock and gem crafting workshops at a retreat in North Carolina's beautiful Blue Ridge mountains. A casual and comfortable fun filled atmosphere offers attendees classes on many types of rock and mineral crafting.

Not to be misled, you must note that many sessions are tailored to aspects of jewelry making such as beading, cabling, faceting, silversmithing, and wire wrapping and sculpturing of wire. But there is at least one class on micromounting. Also persons I have talked to say that on some free time they have

had opportunity to explore some rock collecting locations "down the mountain."

Some classes are sequential, starting with basics and building on those basics to more involved crafting. These would be beading, silversmithing and wire wrapping.

First session this year takes place in May. Spring session runs May 22 to May 28. Second session takes place in September 11 to 17. Registration for sessions begins no earlier than January 1 of the current calendar year. You have up to 30 days before a session to sign up or drop out.

When considering Wild Acres retreat as a vacation or even an educational opportunity, your best bet is to register early. Past participants advise that class rosters fill up fast.

You can acquire Wild Acres application forms from club officers. Cost to attend is \$320 per person with half that amount being applied as a deposit when registering. Means of transportation and cost of travel to the retreat is at discretion of participants. Meals, room and board are covered in your fee for the week.

Looking forward to May, a second event offers opportunity to get out and collect. Two of the past three years, Linda and I have personally experienced the Maine Mineral Symposium in beautiful Augusta, Maine.

We first learned of Maine's symposium from a friend and rockhound of long experience. That was in or about 1999. Finally in 2003, we decided to make a spring trek north to see what the symposium was all about. Preliminary research and collecting trips to western Maine in 2001 piqued our interest in that great northern U.S. rockhound paradise. We attended our first session in May 2003.

For two and one-half days participants are absorbed in lectures about famous collecting sites. Most presentations are about Maine's notable collecting locations. However, speakers from outside Maine offer presentations about neighboring states and countries from around the world.

Friday evening begins with a Boardroom lecture. Then symposium dealers offer room after room of specialty rocks and minerals for examination and purchase. Wheeling and dealing may go late into the evening. But all participants are up bright and early to attend the main session. Lectures run from 9AM until 4PM with a break for lunch at a local place of your choice. On Saturday evening a voice auction of rock and mineral donations is preceded by a silent auction. All proceeds used to fund future symposiums.

We have learned from attending sessions in 2003 and 2005

that there is most certainly a “Da Vinci” code in the program format. At least one program speaker will highlight a notable Maine location, which later turns out to be Sunday’s collecting trip.

If you love to collect in the field, then this symposium will surely feed your addiction. If you are new to Maine’s mineral treasure chest, by attending just one symposium you will become hopelessly hooked on what this state has to offer. A more collector friendly east-coast state is very difficult to find.

Our trip to Maine last year offered opportunity to collect four mineral locations in five days. Two of three sites in Maine were free access, Mt. Apatite and the famous Perham Properties in Greenwood. Oxford County’s famous Mt. Mica was the announced mystery fieldtrip. A side trip on the way back from Maine afforded us a chance to collect in southwest New Hampshire.

This year we have hopes to attend the 17th annual Maine Mineral Symposium. If you wish to give it a try, pre-registration deadline is Tax Day (April 15). Registration is only \$12 per person and guarantees your participation in any part of the total 2-½ day program. You may stay at a local hotel or motel or your choice and off-season rates are dirt-cheap. You have a variety of local and nationally recognized restaurants to choice from for meals.

Symposium organizers are always looking for new dealers. To meet requirements, you stay at the Senator Inn on Western Avenue. This is the symposium location. There is no set up

fee but you are asked to provide a good quality mineral or non-mineral donation for the benefit auction.

Note that there is no selling out of your car or tailgating. Cost of a room at the Senator is high but don’t let that deter you. Local, national chain motels offer great off-season rates. One experience at this fabulous meeting in Maine’s mineral mecca will encourage you to return.

March offers a forward look at May mineral activities. Indoor or outdoor, down south or up north, you are guaranteed a lifetime experience; one you may want to relive year after year.

For further information:

WILD ACRES contact: Debbie Board, Registrar at debbard@frontiernet.net or 717-294-3667 also Al DeMilo, Director at abdemilo@aol.com or 301-2262-6014 or ask a club officer

MAINE MINERAL SYMPOSIUM contact: Woodrow Thompson, Maine Geological Survey at woodrow.b.thompson@maine.gov or an interested dealer may contact Duane Levitt at skarnrx@1megalink.net or BEFORE 8:30pm 207-336-2888 .

CAPITAL DISTRICT MINERAL CLUB
P.O. Box 12814
Albany, New York 12212-2814

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____ **Phone** _____

Street _____ **Email** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Membership Type: Family _____ Individual _____ Single _____

Dues are \$20.00 Family membership; \$14.00 Individual membership; \$5.00 Student membership

Capital District Mineral Club
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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.