

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 2008

Next Meeting

Please come to the next meeting on March 6, 2008. The door to the museum (on Madison Ave., farther-est from the red church) will be opened from 7:00-7:15pm (sometimes earlier, but never later...unless we know who's late). Please wait in a visible location. Please sign in at the security desk when you enter and leave. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. We look forward to meeting you. It's cold out there, don't forget your hat and mittens.

March Program

The March Program will consist of Alfredo Petrov giving his own account of a trip to the remote Sulfur Mines in Boliva to arrange for the first purchase of mineral specimens to ship back to the USA. Alfredo Petrov is a well know mineral dealer who travels the world looking for adventure and mineral specimens.

For more info on the speaker, please go to these websites:

www.petrovrareminerals.com/index.html
<http://www.mindat.org/gallery-275.html>
<http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugfilms10.html>

February Program Review

We watched a video on the history of gold. It was interesting.

New Officers Elected

Our newly elected Vice President Dick Wright had to step down from office for personal reasons. At the February Board Meeting, the Board voted in a new Vice President...Gerry Pratt. Gerry will be planning a field trip meeting for the near future.

Message from the President

Please make sure to check the club website frequently for the list of Committee Members. Simply stating that you didn't know you were on that committee or didn't know that you weren't will not work anymore. If you wish to be removed from a committee, tell your president. I only want to hear committee reports from the Committee Chairs.

It has been a rule for a long time now that if you are a member of a committee, you must have a committee meeting before any decisions are made within that committee. Then the Chair of the committee must report the findings of the whole committee back to either the club or the president. If you don't know the members of your committee, or have never been contacted by your committee chair, please let your president know.

If you require reimbursements from committee activities, please first tell the President (who will then check it against the budget), then get a Reimbursement Form from the Treasurer and fill it out. Then give it back to the treasurer with original receipts attached and an explanation of what was used and why.

Website Updates

There is now a secret section in the website. Please go to www.albanyrockclub.com and REGISTER. Type in a username (make it up or use your name) and your email. Then email me at schmanie@albanyrockclub.com and provide me with your full name and address as it appears on the club membership list with your email. If it matches what you registered as, I will unlock you and give you access to the inside of the website. The next time you go to the website, after you are given the ok, you will go to the login screen,

and type in your username and password which is provided in a separate email.

There are new photos online...check it out! Some new ones from the show this weekend, and some old ones submitted by Rich Stein.

You may submit club photos to: schmanie@albany-rockclub.com or give them to Anne Woods at a club function. All pictures will be returned if required.

Rock Shows 2008

March 1-2. Newark (Stanton), DE. 45th annual show; Delaware Mineralogical Society; Delaware Technical & Community College, Churchmans Rd. (Rte. 58); Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5, seniors \$4, ages 12-16 \$3, children under 12 free; contact Gene Hartstein, (302) 234-4488; e-mail: gene@fossilnut.com; Scott Peters, (610) 449-4284, or Wayne Urion, (302) 998-0686; e-mail: wurion@aol.com

March 1-2. New York, NY. Spring retail and wholesale show; New York Mineralogical Club, Excalibur Mineral Corp.; The Holiday Inn-Midtown, 440 W. 57th St., between 9th Ave. and 10th Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$6, children under 12 accompanied by an adult free; contact Tony Nikischer, (914) 739-1134

March 8-9. Clifton, NJ. 19th annual show; North Jersey Mineralogical Society; Pope John Paul II Elementary School, 775 Valley Rd., 200 yards north of Rt.3 and Rt.46; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, seniors \$3, children \$2; contact Juan Gonzalez, 79 Lakeside Ave., Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442, (973) 405-1480; e-mail: hntradvntr@msn.com

March 15-16. Hicksville (Long Island), NY. 36th annual show; Island Rock Hounds; Holy Family School Auditorium, 5 Fordham Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4.50, children under 12 free with adult; contact Nancy Colburn, IRH, P.O. Box 521, Bellmore, NY 11710, (516) 334-4398

Field Trip to Franklin, New Jersey

This year the Eastern Field Trip Association (EFTA) Trip: STERLING HILL SUPER DIG will occur on April 26, 2008. Registration and Trip Information is currently available at www.uvworld.org. On the same weekend, there will also be the 36th Annual NJESA Gem and Mineral Show & Outdoor Swap & Sell! The Delaware Valley Earth Science Society (DVESS) and the North East Field Trip Alliance (NEFTA), in

cooperation with the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, invite you to share an international collecting experience. This field trip has attracted dedicated collectors from across the globe. Be one of them this year! It WILL be an historic and memorable event. Tools and UV lights will be available for purchase at the Franklin Museum and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. The Sterling Hill dig and find area will have excavation / turnover of fresh NEW soil areas for your digging pleasure -- tens of TONS of new material has been pulled down from the mountain just for us (that's what this year's fees help to pay for). Attendance is by advance reservation. Sign up early! We MUST have at least 100 people. and . in case you are wondering, it IS "rain or shine" -- so come prepared!!! Collectors enter any site at their own risk and must sign a hold-harmless liability waiver when registering. New, LOWER AGE RESTRICTIONS for the collecting areas. Standard Federation safety rules apply - safety goggles and durable footwear are mandatory (no sneakers or sandals). Work gloves are strongly recommended. PLEASE!!!! Note the age requirement at each site. Other questions? send email an Email to Jeff Winkler: TripMaster@UVworld.org ; Phone: 973-835-2582

Hold Harmless Form

At the February 2008 meeting, the Board of Directors of the CDMC have decided that all members must sign a Hold Harmless Form when they become members, and before they attend each individual field trip. Field Trip leaders have been told to not let club members on a field trip unless they have signed this form.

New Acquisitions

Members are always welcome to bring in minerals and fossils that they have found during the month for other members to look at.

Mineral Show

Thanks are extended to the members of the Show Committee and the Publicity Committee for their participation in preparing for, working at, and promoting this past weekend's 15th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale at the New York State Museum in Albany, NY. Anyone else who helped, we thank you as well.

Unexpected Rockhound
by Don Kauffman

"You never know what you might find ... you're never too old to start something new."* A familiar sounding statement to many of us who have unexpectedly found fascination with rocks and minerals.

The quote comes from a novice who at 60 plus years discovered unexpected adventure while on a hunting trip in southcentral Colorado. He also ended up with a mystery mineral, a mine, and reward of an unexpected fortune. This unexpected rockhound could be any of us.

His tale begins in a remote area, follows a path along a winding creek that sparks a sense of adventure. Pumped up by increasing curiosity, finding an old camp, holes drilled in rock, prospect diggings, cast off mine waste and a half covered mine tunnel all offered further reason to explore the location. Daylight exhausted by the time trail clues got interesting, undiscouraged, our adventurer, returned to resume following clues on the next day.

His return revealed a second tunnel further up on a mountainside. Investigation of this tunnel produced not gold or silver but another unexpected treasure, a "crystalline mineral of a bright green color."*

Further searching of upslope dumps produced more material. Not only were there tailings piles found but by and large they were filled with more of the cast off green mineral. There was also access to a hidden smaller mine entrance.

Examining the short tunnel yielded massive veins of mystery mineralization. Massive crystalline material in situ, colorless through three shades of green to emerald hue was all there. A new rockhound was born that day, in that old forgotten tunnel.

This unexpected rockhound was initially on a hunt and not experienced in minerals or even interested in rocks. Only remote association with buying and trading gemstones fired his curiosity as to what transparent green material he had in his hands.

Our unexpected rockhound continued his adventure by investigating the type of mineral and any mine documentation. Several contacts verified his find to be not only fluorite but potentially gem fluorite. He then researched fluorite to learn all he could about it.

He finally decided to have his specimens assayed and evaluated by an expert mineral dealer. The dealer's

familiarity with statewide mineral specimens and locations failed to produce an educated guess as to location of the mine site. But the fluorite was of exceptional quality.

A wise man, he decided not to divulge further details or location clues to the dealer. He decided to determine how best to invest his holdings. Several hundred pounds of fluorite has since been removed in form of cuttable rough from the mystery location.

To date, our rockhound has found fortune with his mine and is making decisions on how best to preserve it. He located a gem cutter to process rough from his site. He is building stock out of four different gem cuts from rough. He is amassing bulk to sell by offering green fluorite with variations and a range of color combinations .

This unexpected rockhound is generous. He has donated several premium specimens to a nationally recognized mining museum in his home state. Beautiful pieces of rough, tumbled stones and over a dozen gem cuts of fluorite can now be seen by visitors.

We all start out as adventurers for various reasons. Eventually, as unexpected rockhounds, satisfaction is found in hunting interesting rocks, beautiful minerals or fossils. An unexpected rockhound occasionally on a first outing, appears to be an odds-on favorite to make a significant find.

Appreciation for countless variations in rocks from microminerals to thumbnails, from small cabinet to large, from boulders to formations filling mountainsides is self-rewarding. Reward of finding interesting rocks or crystalline minerals in their natural environment is the only hook needed to turn casually interested individual into an unexpected rockhound..

*Paraphrased quote from Colorado's Lost Trail Mine owner Jim Miles.

Inspiration for article was from Steve Voynick's "Lost Trail Fluorite: Colorado Hunters Bag a Gem Deposit." in ROCK & GEM February 2008 pages 34-38. Full story of this find is accompanied by some great photos of fluorite from the location.

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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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