

# 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 2009

### March Meeting

Please come to the next meeting on March 5th at the New York State Museum on Madison Ave, Albany, NY. The door to the museum will be open from 7:00-7:15pm. Please wait in front of the door for us to come let you in. Please sign in at the security desk when you enter. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. We look forward to meeting you. The March Program will have three parts. We will welcome the new club members, whom we saw for the first time at the Gem and Mineral Show, ask their names and hope to get a name tag for them. Second, we will all watch the big screen version of the 2009 CDMC Power Point presentation about the club's rock and mineral activities, and lastly, Mr. Richard Stein give his annual 'Safety Talk for Rock and Mineral Diggers.'

### Field Trip Meeting

There will be a field trip organizational meeting to be announced soon for all those interested in leading a field trip for the club. Please contact VP Gerry Pratt if you are interested in attending this meeting. His phone number is: 518-392-0453.

### Two-Day Rock and Mineral Fest: Gilsum, New Hampshire *by Don Kauffman*

With many of our clubs starting field trip activities as early as April or May, by the time the end of June arrives, we are all digging deep into summer collecting schedules. Perhaps it is time to stop, take a breath and do some relaxing off usual beaten roads. The small town of Gilsum, New Hampshire is just the place to take a side step into a less harried environment. For over fifty years the little town of Gilsum was a successful mining mecca. At one time the region boasted over sixty working mines and prospects. Cheap imports eventually cut into the once bustling American mining economy and the pegmatite-laden mines fell silent. In 1964 local residents decided to revive a sense of community and pride in their past by establishing an annual rock swap. In fairly short time, the rock and mineral swap, with exploring and collecting trips to local mines put Gilsum back on the map. The project funded recreation activities for the town's children during the subsequent summer months. Now in the 45th year the quiet little New Hampshire town still raises recreational funds for the children on the very same school grounds. During the fourth weekend in June, the town library

sponsors its annual book sale; old mine maps are still available. The members of the Ashuelot Grange serve up a pancake breakfast with genuine maple syrup. The American Legion has hot dogs and burgers on an open grill in a shady grove of trees, and Sunday a chicken barbeque is the main event. A glass of cool lemonade is sold by the ladies of the Gilsum Historical Society on the hottest of days. All of these fund raising activities, plus over 70 dealers and swappers, make the show a special event under open June skies. The highpoint, for many participants and visitors, is a Saturday evening "all-you-can-eat" family style ham and bean supper. Once held in the social hall of the Gilsum Congregational church, the feast is now held in the school's addition; a new "cafetorium." The supper is a special and meaningful fellowship because some of the money raised through the years of the mineral show was invested to provide for expansion of the school. The years haven't all been kind to the show. Old-timers will tell you they once had over 5,000 visitors attend the two-day event. Now attendance may well be less than one-third that figure. The local mines and properties have seen more privatization and escorted tours are a thing of the past; however, the Beaugard Mine is still available for collecting beryl by arrangement during dates of the show. Also, just up the road, between Gilsum and East Alstead, there are still a few sites to explore on an afternoon drive. Besides the small and friendly community fair environment pervading the show, there are some local natural areas and geological attractions; such as ice age rocks forming "bear dens" and glacial potholes. Any local resident can provide directions to these attractions. The changes through the years haven't diminished the spirit for the show. An enthusiastic group of camp followers, show goers, and community participants keep it alive. For all who have attended for many years, a grand feeling of accomplishment is seen in the new addition to the school. This year a guest speaker will top off Saturday night's supper. Nancy Millard\* will give a presentation on collecting in New England at 7:00pm on Saturday night. She will share her adventures, talk about the best collecting sites and have a handout about some of those sites that you can take with you. Located off Route 10 and just north of Keene, in the beautiful Ashuelot Valley, the village of Gilsum is the very place to stop and enjoy. The charm of the area will ultimately encourage an annual return. It is a small stop off expressways and highways on one of the calmer byways of mining and collecting history. Don't miss a stopover at Gilsum. We have

been returning to this quaint location since 1997. This year the show is on June 27-28. With 5,000 to 8,000 guests in the area, start planning your trip to Gilsum NOW! SWAPPERS INVITED: Gilsum, NH June 27-28, 8am - 6pm. and 8am - 4pm. Contact Rob Mitchell at gilsumrocks@gmail.com. Tell Rob that Don Kauffman was your contact. \*Nancy Millard is a member of the Rhode Island Mineral Hunters rock and mineral club. She is an avid mineral collector and one of the club Field Trip Coordinators.

EFTA Trip - Sterling Hill Super Dig  
Franklin, NJ Fluorescents - on your own  
April 25, 2009 (9am - 11pm) www.uvworld.org

Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting  
Capital District Mineral Club Minutes  
Thursday January 29, 2009  
Curtis Breuer, Secretary

Met at the New York State Museum at 7:00 pm. Attendance: Gerry Pratt, Tom Halleran, Mark Kilmer, Bob Hartig, Jim Palmer, Bruce and Charlyn Murray, Fred Dobert, Rich Stein, Anne Woods, Bob Stitham, Geri Boileau, George and Barbara Gearhardt, and Curtis Breuer. Paul Breuer was a spectator. Meeting was called to order by Bob Hartig at 7:20. Secretary's report was given by Curtis Breuer. Bob Stitham made a motion to accept, Gerry Pratt seconded, and the floor accepted. Report was written by Helen Eckler at February 18th meeting. Treasurer's report was given by Bob Stitham. Balance on hand December 31, 2007 was \$6692.87, receipts \$9411.87, disbursements \$1873.94, balance on hand December 31, 2008 was \$7537.93. James Campbell Memorial Fund has \$833.00. Geri Boileau made a motion to accept, Barbara Gearhardt seconded, the floor accepted. Audit Committee report was given by Tom Halleran. There was no news on the audit committee; however, Gerry Pratt mentioned that there was no receipts given for memberships paid in cash and thus, they were untraceable. George Gearhardt suggested that we get a receipt book to keep track. Tom Halleran made a motion for the treasurer to purchase several receipt books, Barbara Gearhardt seconded, the floor excepted. Bruce Murray suggested the Audit Committee give a written report next time. Gerry Pratt announced that the cost that the printing of Newsletters varied quite a bit. No motions were passed on this topic; however, there were many suggestions given to buy our newsletter copies in bulk to save money. Anne Woods passed out the 2009 Club Budget. There were a few concerns at first that the income was higher than expected. However, it was discussed that the budgeted expenses are usually not met and therefore the income would be sufficient to cover our expenses. George Gearhardt made a motion to accept, Bob Hartig seconded, and the floor accepted. Geri Boileau motioned that the Class of 2006 was re-elected for 2009, Bob Stitham seconded, and the floor accepted. It was discussed that myself, Curtis, was put onto the Board per the by-laws. George Gearhardt suggested that Board Members should have to attend all meetings or be removed; no new motions were passed on this. The Old Business was discussed: - The free membership for members of 25 years was brought

up and no new motions were passed. George Gearhardt made a motion that the Board minutes would be published in the newsletter following the board meetings, Bob Stitham seconded, and the floor accepted. New Business was discussed: -Anne Woods accepted the role of documenting and publicizing the agenda of passed and failed proposals. -Next discussion was the reality that we loose money on student memberships and on families over three. Bob Stitham made a motion that any student membership would have to have a newsletter emailed to them, George Gearhardt seconded, and the floor accepted. Mark Kilmer suggested that we eliminate the student membership; however, no motions were passed on this. -Rich Stein suggested that our club purchase a new sound system so members in the back can hear the officers. Barbara Gearhardt suggested that the officers stand up whenever giving a report to better help this issue. -Rich Stein suggested that we should try to get more members to receive newsletters through email. It was announced that Robert and Elaine Royer have resigned from the Board. This brought up the topic of replacing their positions. George Gearhardt made a motion for Paul Breuer to be a Board of Trustees member, Bob Hartig seconded, and the floor accepted. The Chairperson of the board was discussed. Geri Boileau nominated Bob Hartig as Chairperson again, Bob Stitham seconded, and the floor accepted. Bob Stitham motioned to close at 8:42, nearly everyone seconded, floor accepted.

Minutes from February Club Meeting 2009  
Capital District Mineral Club Minutes  
Thursday February 5, 2009  
Curtis Breuer, Secretary

Met at the New York State Museum at 7:00, twenty eight members were in attendance. Meeting was called to order at 7:37 by President Anne Woods. Steve Harding from Massachusetts came to his first club meeting after being a member for a few years. Bruce Murray started the program on Wire Wrapping Minerals. This was followed by a break where the raffle was sold. After break, Gerry Pratt announced the winners of the raffle. The raffle made \$35. Secretary's Report was given by Curtis Breuer; Richard Hartnet motioned to accept the minutes. Treasurer's Report was given by Gerald Boileau; Balance on Hand January 1st: \$7537.93, Raffle: \$23.00, Interest: \$1.29, Disbursements: \$175.00, Balance on Hand February 1st: \$7387.22; Joanna Michalek motioned to accept the report. Show Committee: George went over the jobs still needed for the show. Field Trip Committee: There will be a meeting on the 19th of February at one of the member's house. No new/old business. Barbara Gearhardt made a motion to close at 9:19, Gerry Pratt seconded.

Put Yourself on a Committee  
by *President Anne Woods*

E-mail me at [schmanie@albanyrockclub.com](mailto:schmanie@albanyrockclub.com) if you wish to be added or removed from a list. If there is a hole for a chair...please note in your E-mail if you wish this role. We need at least 3 people on each committee, but will always accept more. Please note that the chair of each committee should be the only one communicating the wishes of the committee with the president of the club. Go for ice-cream...get to know one another...share your ideas...exchange phone numbers and emails.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** In charge of keeping track of who is a member, who owes money for membership, which members want an electronic vs. paper copy of the newsletter, etc. 1. Jim Palmer: CHAIR; 2. Gerry Boileau; 3. George Gearhardt

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** In charge of compiling an entire list of who speaks at the monthly meetings for the year, still early on in the year. 1. Bruce Murray: CHAIR; 2. Rich Hartnett; 3. Gerry Pratt

**SHOW COMMITTEE:** In charge of getting things together for the February Mineral Show at the New York State Museum in Albany and volunteering their time. 1. George Gearhardt: CHAIR; 2. Bob Ballard; 3. Tom Halleran; 4. Anne Woods; 5. Rich Stein; 6. Bob Stitham; 7. Rich Hartnett; 8. Jo-anna Michalek; 9. Max Fischer

**FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE:** Meets early on to determine the list of field trips for the year. Contains a large number of actual field trip leaders. 1. Gerry Pratt: CHAIR; 2. Jim Palmer; 3. Rich Stein; 4. George Gearhardt; 5. Richard Hartnett; 6. Gerry Boileau; 7. Bob Stitham; 8. Bob Ballard; 9. Anne Woods; 10. Tom Halleran

**AUCTION COMMITTEE:** In charge of making sure the silent and/or live auctions at the club banquets run smoothly and not create pure chaos. 1. Bob Ballard: CHAIR ; 2. Robert Stitham; 3. Anne Woods; 4. Gerry Boileau

**MONTHLY RAFFLE COMMITTEE:** In charge of choosing raffle items from the club cabinet and putting them on table for display by members before the monthly meetings, selling raffle tickets, and calling out raffle numbers at meetings. 1. Gerry Pratt: CHAIR; 2. Robert Ballard; 3. Curtis Breuer

**BANQUET COMMITTEE:** In charge of choosing the menu and location for the June and December Banquets. 1. Robert Stitham: CHAIR; 2. Bob Ballard; 3. Anne Woods; 4. Gerry Boileau

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** In charge of choosing who gets the scholarship within the guidelines set up by the Board of Directors of the club. 1. Gerry Boileau: CHAIR; 2. Richard Hartnett; 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE:** In charge of the organizing, keeping track of, and ordering new library books. 1. Barbara Gearhardt: CHAIR; 2. George Gearhardt; 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**AUDITING COMMITTEE:** In charge of a once a year auditing of the club books (or more if necessary). 1. Tom Halleran: CHAIR; 2. Gerry Pratt; 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**GREETING/ICE CREAM COMMITTEE:** In charge of making sure new members and visitors to the club meetings feel like a part of the group rather than outsiders. 1. Bruce Murray: CHAIR; 2. Charlyn Murray; 3. Gerry Boileau; 4. Richard Hartnett

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** In charge of writing articles for the newsletter, putting it all together, folding, photocopies, putting on labels (provided by membership committee), and adding stamps. 1. Anne Woods: CHAIR; 2. Don Kauffman; 3. Robert Ballard; 4. Richard Hartnett; 5. Robert Stitham

**BBQ / ROCK SWAP COMMITTEE:** In charge of setting up BBQ at a local park to have a rock swap with members of our club and other local clubs. 1. Robert Stitham: CHAIR; 2. Anne Woods; 3. Robert Ballard; 4. Curtis Breuer

**FIELD TRIP RULES COMMITTEE:** In charge of rewriting the rules to be followed on a club field trip in a way that leaves no interpretation other than that which we mean. 1. Anne Woods: CHAIR; 2. Robert Stitham; 3. Robert Ballard; 4. Tom Halleran

A 45-Foot Snake?!

Researchers examining a coal mine in Colombia have found the fossil remains of a species of snake that they say weighed 2500 pounds and grew to 45 feet long. And while those super-sized snakes may be enough to give some people nightmares, the presence of such a massive reptile is useful to climate scientists. 'Titanoboa,' as the new species has been named, would need to have lived in warmer temperatures. Scientists estimate that the average temperature at the time of Titanoboa would have needed to be 6 to 8 degrees warmer for the animal to survive. We'll find out more. Teachers, find more information about using Science Friday as a classroom resource in the Kids' Connection. Guest: Jason Head; Assistant Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; University of Toronto Mississauga Mississauga, Ontario, Canada --from NPR's Science Friday, February 6 via The Hounds Howl Feb. 2009  
[www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/200902065](http://www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/200902065)



**2009 Albany Mineral Show Pictures taken by George Gearhardt.**

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 Robert Stitham - general

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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.