

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

May 2007

Next Meeting

Please come to the next meeting on May 3, 2007. The door to the museum (on Madison Ave., farthest from the red church) will be opened from 7:00-7:15pm (sometimes earlier, but hardly ever later). Please wait in front of the door for us to come let you in (make sure you can be seen from the inside of the lobby). Please sign in at the security desk when you enter. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. We look forward to meeting you. Feel free to bring a friend. Remember that the walk from the parking lot to the museum entrance can be quite the wind tunnel, so bring appropriate clothing to stay warm.

May Program

Part 1: Gilboa Fossil Talk

Our May speaker will be Dr. Ed Landing, State Paleontologist of the New York State Museum. He will talk to us about the Gilboa Forest fossil trees in Gilboa, NY. He has recently done some very interesting research in this area.

Part 2: Annual Safety Talk

Richard Stein will present the annual safety talk, which gives us all a reminder of what safety precautions we must take for ourselves and those around us while we are on club field trips. These precautions should also be used when one is collecting at other times as well.

April Program Review

The curator of geology, Marian Lupulescu, from the New York State Museum, did his mineral show talk "The Many Faces of Calcite". It was enjoyed by all.

Field Trips

May 6: LaFarge Quarry, Ravena, NY. (Sunday).

Meet at 9:30 am SHARP at the parking lot, Dunkin Donuts /Family Dollar Store on Route 9W at the North end of Ravena. Tools: Heavy hammers, chisels, pry bars, hardhat (required), safety glasses/goggles (required), steel-toed boots or hiking boots (required - sneakers not allowed), orange or lemon safety vest (required - get at local hardware store). The material to collect is fossils mostly, but crystals only if new finds show up. Many varieties, including crinoid stems, snails (gastropods), tentaculites, trilobites, brachiopods (shells), etc. Children are welcome (permitted) but only WITH adult supervision. Bring snacks/drinks. No facilities. Please contact field trip leader Richard Stein (518)355-4423 steinerite@nycap.rr.com if you wish to attend. If you do not contact Rich and register with him, you can not attend the trip.

Notes: We will exit the quarry by 2:00 PM. I recommend you bring rain gear with you. We are hoping ferry service to and from the collecting areas will not be needed. Use bright paint on chisels and hammer handles to avoid loss. If paint gets on specimens, it can easily be removed. A safety/quarry rules discussion is required before club members may enter into the quarry. Releases are to be signed at end of discussion. Failure to comply with the rules required means NO collecting.

Panther Pond Labradorite Trip originally scheduled for May 12 has been postponed to a later date TBA.

Two reasons include: 1. There is still snow up there; and 2. It was proposed that it might make more sense to make it a joint trip with a visit to the Adirondack Museum as well (since it is just a hop, skip, and a jump from the collecting site). We will keep you posted.

May 19: Schoharie Creek Mine, Schoharie, NY (Saturday). Meeting place to be determined at the Schoharie exit on I-88 on Saturday May 19 at 9:00am. Contact field trip leader Bob Ballard at 518-377-8656 [rballad@nycap.rr.com] to secure a spot. The material to collect is pyrite nodules. Tools: bucket, hammer, bug juice, and chisels. We warn you that there is poison ivy present at this location. Wear protective clothing including pants, long sleeved shirts, and gloves. If you get severe reactions, wear ivy guard (get it in the drugstore) and tell the field trip leader to watch out for you. We must cross the Schoharie Creek in the famous row boat to get there.

June Auction

Our June Dinner Banquet is just around the corner. We will again be having a silent auction. Each club member may elect to bring up to three (3) items for bidding. These may include fossils, mineral specimens, books, tools, magazines, jewelry or anything else pertaining to rockhounding. Remember, the bid this time is a 80-20 split with the club. 20% goes to the club and 80% goes to the individual who brought the piece in. If you decide to donate all the proceeds to the club, you may do so, just let the people who are signing you up know of your intentions. This is just a heads up to get you looking.

Rock Shows 2007

- May 5-6. Topsfield, MA. 44th annual wholesale and retail show; North Shore Rock & Mineral Club; Topsfield Fairgrounds, Rte. 1 N; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact Joe Weisberg, (781) 861-6653; Web site: www.nahant.com/nsrmc
- June 9. Kent, CT. 5th annual swap and sale; Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science, Connecticut Antique Machinery Association; Rte. 7; Contact John Pawloski, 42 Squash Hollow Rd., New Milford, CT 06776, (860) 354-0296; e-mail: j.a.pawloski@worldnet.att.net.
- June 23-24. Gilsum, NH. 43rd annual show and swap, "Gilsum Rock Swap & Mineral Show"; Gilsum Recreation Committee, Gilsum Elementary School Grounds, Rte. 10 N; Sat. 8-6, Sun. 8-4; Contact Robert Mitchell, Gilsum Recreation Committee, P.O. Box 76, Gilsum, NH 03448, (603) 357-9636; e-mail: rmitchell60@adelphia.net; Web site: <http://users.adelphia.net/~rmitchell60/index.html>.
- July 14-15. Syracuse, NY. 41st annual show, "Treasures of the Earth"; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; Verizon Center of Progress Bldg., State Fairgrounds, I-690; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6, kids under 12 free; \$1 off coupon on Web site, Contact Cathy Patterson, (315) 638-8817; Web site: www.gmss.us.
- July 28-29. South Burlington, VT. 28th 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; Contact Kathy Howe, (802) 656-4118; Web site: www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org.
- August 25-26. Canton, NY. 41st annual show; St. Lawrence

- County Mineral Club; Sportsman's Club, Nickerson Rd.; Contact William deLorraine, (315) 287-4652; e-mail: wdellie@northnet.org.
- September 8-9. North Adams, MA. Show; Northern Berkshire Mineral Club; VFW Hall, Rte. 2; adults \$2, children under 12 free with adult, Contact Marie Grande, 138 N. Summer St., Adams, MA 01220, (413) 743-9207.
- September 29-30. Concord, NH. 44th annual festival; Capital Mineral Club; Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, children under 12 free with adult; Contact Jonathan Herndon, P.O. Box 520, Center Ossipee, NH 03814-0520.
- October 13-14. Bristol, CT. 35th annual show; Bristol Gem & Mineral Club, Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, seniors \$3, children under 12 free; Contact Dave Korzendorfer, 208 Westledge Rd., W. Simsbury, CT 06092, (860) 651-9980; e-mail: bristolgem@hotmail.com; Web site: www.bristolgem.org.
- October 27-28. Henrietta, NY. 35th annual show; Rochester Lapidary Society, Rochester Academy of Sciences Mineral Section; Monroe County Fairgrounds; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Contact Hollis Heinzerling, (585) 343-5304; e-mail: hheinzer@rochester.rr.com; Web site: www.rochesterlapidary.org.

Interesting Collectables From Field Trips

Can you think of things you can collect on field trips in addition to rocks, minerals, or fossils? Here are some suggestions of what you might look for:

Rail Road Date Nails - These are dated nails either machine or hand-nailed into railroad ties, usually in the center of the wooden tie, to indicate the date the tie was laid down. Also, the date on the nail reminded the railroad when to replace the ties. Dates appear as two digits, so 34 would be 1934. The nails are round or square at the head and about 2 ½ to 3 inches long. Some dates are impressed while others stand out. The nails I have found range from 1924 to 1959. Believe it or not, there is a national collector's association for these rail nails. Some have collector value. Warning: never trespass on railroad property or collect on actively used lines and always have children accompanied by adults. If possible, use a spotter to be on the safe side. Rail nails can be collected at old abandoned mine sites, abandoned lines, or by the side of the tracks from cast off old rotting ties. Use a wonder bar or pry bar to get them out of the ties. If the ties are rotten, this will not take much effort. Watch out for snakes!

Mine Artifacts - At many old mines it is possible to find artifacts left by the miners and their families which can tell you how they lived and worked. I have found old chisels, eye glasses, stove parts, medicine bottles, glass stoppers, reflectors, booze bottles, large carriage bolts, and many other items. I bag the items in plastic sandwich or freezer bags, and include a label noting the location where they were found.

Native American Artifacts - While finding these artifacts are rare, I have found projectile points (arrowheads), flint scrapers, flint drills, hammer stones, net sinkers, lap anvils, and other tools used by native cultures, as well as red ochre chunks, shells, and a black material used to paint faces for ritual ceremonies. Some artifacts found in this area date back before the Christian era (i.e., BC).

Lost and Found - People drop tools on field trips. If you could find the owner and return the items that would be great, but often times that is impossible. Note, if tools

or other items are intentionally left behind at a claim, they are not lost. Leave them alone.

Be sure to leave endangered plant species where you find them; they may be protected by law, with fines for picking them.

In short, while you are out collecting, keep your eyes open for other possibilities. You may find some interesting treasures.

Richard Hartnett

CAPITAL DISTRICT MINERAL CLUB SEMI-ANNUAL BANQUET

June 7, 2007

Social Hour at 6:00 PM

Dinner at 6:30 PM

New York State Museum
Mineral Hall, Albany, NY

Cost: \$15.00

The annual June Banquet will be held at the New York State Museum this year again. It will be a sit down meal featuring a choice between three items. The original cost of the banquet is being shared by the museum again, so the discounted cost for the June 7, 2007 banquet is now \$15 per person with tip included. Deadline to make a reservation is May 20th. This is also the last date that you may cancel. Any attempts to cancel after this date will not be honored, and it will be expected that those people still pay the fee, despite the fact that they are unable to attend (for whatever reason). Please call George or Barbara at (518) 355-0670 or mail it to the club PO Box by May 20th (it must actually be in the mailbox on this date when George goes in to pick up the mail). Make checks payable to the Capital District Mineral Club.

Banquet Menu

Salad: Traditional Caesar Salad

Entree Choice (please specify one):

- Oven Roasted Chicken Breast: Served with a Grape Tomato and Sweet Onion Confit
- Cajun Rubbed Salmon: With Lemon and Cilantro Sauce
- Steak and Mushrooms: Broiled Top Sirloin Topped with Roasted Portobello Mushroom Ragout

Hot Beverage: Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Hot Tea

Dinners Include Appetizer, Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter, Chefs Choice of Potato or Rice and Seasonal Vegetable, and Choice of Dessert

Capital District Mineral Club June 2007 Banquet

Name(s) _____

Number attending _____ Total price _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

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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.