

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

NOVEMBER 2008

Next Meeting

Please come to the next meeting on November 6th at the New York State Museum on Madison Ave, Albany, NY. Our November meeting will include a DVD presentation. Please come to the doors of the museum between 7 - 7:15 pm. Meeting starts around 7:30pm.

Membership Renewal

Most memberships run out on August 31 (except very new members), so bring your checkbooks to renew your memberships. Please give your money/check to the membership committee (ask for Jim Palmer) Be sure you have decided if you want to switch to an email newsletter or keep your paper copy.

Club T-shirts Available

XL gray T-shirts with the club logo on the front and the quote "I'd Rather Be Rockhounding" on the back are available for \$12 each (cash only) from Anne Woods at the next meeting.



Field Trip Review

Oct 4, Trip to Connecticut collection sites. Noelle Guimond, Bob Ballard, Joanna Michalek and Gerry Pratt set out at 9am from the Rt 22 meeting location to the first site in New Britain Ct. There we found nice specimens of amethyst, datalite, large plates of quartz, calcite and Joanne found a very nice tourmaline. Noelle brought a very nice birthday cake for her friend Tony who met us at the site. He was very familiar with the site and shared this knowledge to all of us. We left the site to the next in Falls Village, an active quarry where we were to meet up with the Worcester Mineral Club. On our way we discovered it was Connecticut fall festival day, statewide, and traffic was a crawl through many of the towns. We reached the quarry just after 2 PM began to dig into the massive calcite boulders. In them we found lots of Tremolite crystals, actinolite, (chalco?)pyrite and hematite. The field trip went on after dusk to observe the fluorescent minerals, which included tremolite (pale green), calcite (red) and opal (bright green). It was a good day collecting, all brought home lots of heavy and interesting rocks.

Gerry Pratt

Mineral Shows

November 14-16. Hamburg, NY. Show and sale, "Gemstreet USA"; Strieter Productions Inc.; Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7 (three days), seniors and students \$5 (three days), children under 12 free; minerals, fossils, hourly door prizes; contact Jane Strieter Smith, P.O. Box 770680, Lakewood, OH 44107, (216) 521-4367; e-mail: janestrietersmith@ohiocoxmail.com; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

November 22-23. Worcester, MA. 33rd annual show; Worcester Mineral Club, National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors and students \$2, children under 6 free; 15 dealers, exhibits, hourly door prizes, raffle, unique gifts; contact Lisa Gaskill, P.O. Box 2278, Worcester, MA 01613, (413) 477-0107; e-mail: worcestermineral@yahoo.com; Web site: www.worcestermineralclub.org/show.htm

February 2-9. Tucson, AZ. Show, "Bead Renaissance Show"; J&J Promotions LLC; 3340 E. Michigan, next to the Holidome and Gem Mall; Mon. 10-6, Tue. 10-6, Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-9, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: info@beadshow.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com

February 21-22. Albany, NY. Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale. New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Madison Avenue, Albany, NY; 10am-5pm. In conjunction with New York in Bloom. Admission: \$6 gets you into both shows. Contact: 518-474-5877; E-mail: mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov

Museum Quality Specimens in Kentucky!

(reprinted with permission from
Boston Mineral Club and Nathan Martin)

The Kentucky fluorite fieldtrip is now over and everyone is headed back home. This was without a doubt the most successful collecting trip of the five times that I have been to Marion, Kentucky and may well rank as the most successful Boston Mineral Club collecting trip ever. We benefitted from four days of good weather (highs in the low 80s every day with reasonably low humidity and no rain), an exposure to fresh ledge from a serious excavator that Bill Frazer brought in to expose fresh material for us, a rented 2" discharge pump to keep the water out of our pit which was 6 feet below the level of Hurricane Creek just 3 feet away, and a rented 14" diamond blade saw to help work some of the pockets. We also benefitted from a crew willing to work together to pass buckets of mud out of the pit to expose the pockets and some tireless collectors who we could just not get out of the pit.

On Monday, October 13, we had our greatest surprise. I had run a saw cut along the top of some hard ledge so that we could work our way down to the fluorite pockets below. Ed Norton began working the cut and broke off a large chunk of ledge that exposed what we now call the "Lucky 13" pocket. The first indication that this was no ordinary pocket was the ~5"

doubly terminated calcite floater that lay loose in the pocket. Still attached to the wall was the entire back of the pocket containing four other large calcite crystals. I carefully ran multiple saw cuts around each edge of the pocket and Ed began even more carefully working the perimeter cuts to try to extract the pocket intact. After a lot of hard work he extracted a roughly 12" x 15" slab with 4 intact calcite crystals. Both Bill Frazer and a local geologist indicated that these are the finest calcite crystals ever collected from Crittenton County. Bret Hume of Pittsburgh took home the calcite floater but Ed Norton has the pocket and I'm sure that you will see it at the November specimen competition.

Then there were the fluorite pockets...and oh what fluorite pockets there were; stepped cubes to 4" on a side, 10" clusters, lovely zoned miniatures, too many fantastic specimens to describe. The last day (Tuesday) was especially productive and those who remained divided an amazing hoard of high quality specimens.

We set aside a few specimens each day for the Boston Mineral Club auction so that those of you not able to make the 2500 mile round trip might have a chance to benefit from our good fortune. This was an amazing experience for everyone involved and I want to thank everyone who participated in this trip for their hard work and good fellowship.

Nate Martin

News About an Online Tool You Can Use

Being members of an out-of-state rock and mineral club is many times a very distinct disadvantage. Such was the case when we received our October issue of THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER. Due to distance, Linda and I were naturally unable to get to the meeting for the presentation.

However, announcement of the speaker and topic for the monthly meeting immediately recalled memory of a series of articles I had seen in the American Mineralogist Index several months ago. Although I have yet to read them, due to their extreme length, I feel I would be remiss not to pass this information along to our Albany mineral friends.

Relative to Dr. Thompson's presentation, CRYSTAL CLEAR: The Struggle for Reliable Communications, an article, History of the quartz oscillator-plate industry, 1941-1945 by Clifford Frondel can be found in May-June 1946 issue of American Mineralogist starting on page 205. Another article which may be of interest, The piezoelectric quartz resonator by Karl S. Van Dyke can be found in the very same volume on page 214. Also worthy of mention is the fact that May-June 1946 issues of American Mineralogist for the same year included a symposium on quartz. Beginning with above articles, the series ran hundreds of pages. Too massive to reprint until read for value of information.

To access the above information, go to the webpage and "save it" by using Keyword "American Mineralogist Index", access: <http://www.minocam.org/amin/AM3/AM3_169.pdf> or just plain minocam.org to connect to this most interesting resource. You then will find article listings by months and years. Find 1946, May-June listings and immerse yourself in a fascinating series of articles about how use of quartz helped win the war against Hitler.

Months back while looking up one topic on local mineralogy, I discovered this virtually priceless trove of information. The index begins with 1916 and is accessible up to 2000 for full length articles. After 2000, you at least get

abstracts of the articles indexed.

In a matter of weeks, before and after our Gilsum trip, I actually looked at every year and every listing to create my own index. This took at least 40 or more hours. The project was done in order to find articles of interest for me to read Online at a later date.

Locating a reference to American Mineralogist Index, for me, proved to be an exciting key to past mineralogical history. If you consider past history of mines, locations, fieldtrip documentation and proceedings of some of America's oldest mineralogical societies of value plus learning about famous personages from the field of mineralogy, geology and related sciences, then AMI is for you.

American Mineralogist Index is a valuable tool, Online, that you can use.

Don Kauffman, member from Reading, PA

Hospitalized

Max Fischer had a serious accident September 23 which will keep him from enjoying our hobby for some time. While working on a ladder, the ladder slipped and Max landed on top of it. His injuries are multiple and very serious. After two weeks in Albany Medical Center, Max has been transferred to Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital, and the prognosis for full recovery is positive, although it will take time. He may have visitors - Room 371 - after 3 PM. [Write Max an E-mail: <http://www.sunnyview.org/contact/email-Patient/emailPatient2.cfm>].

The College of Saint Rose

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Geology Program
Dept. of Physical & Biological Sciences

October 2, 2008

The Scholarship Committee
Capital District Mineral Club
PO Box 12814
Albany, NY 12212-2814

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you very much for the \$500 scholarship that you presented to the geology program at The College of Saint Rose last year. As a new degree-granting program, we were excited to be able to present such a substantial scholarship to our first graduating senior, Brian Hupe, at the annual awards ceremony in March. Like so many of our students, Brian was supporting himself while finishing his degree, so your scholarship had a greatly beneficial impact on his life and helped him to pay for books and tuition for his last semester. Brian received his B.S. in Geology in May and is now working for an environmental consulting firm as a field geologist.

We are deeply appreciative of your support for our program. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric Eslinger
Professor

Dr. Jacqueline Smith
Assistant Professor

Dr. Stephanie Maes
Assistant Professor

December Banquet

The December Banquet will be held on December 4th at the Gateway Diner. You must be a club member to attend the banquet. We will be ordering off the menu. There will be a menu available at the November meeting if you want to look it over, or it is accessible online at: <http://www.gatewaydiner.com/Default.aspx> . Please RSVP by November 30th so we can set up the appropriate number of chairs, auction space, and have enough auction popsicle number sticks available. Please email the club website if you are coming (and list everyone who is coming with you) at schmanie@albanyrockclub.com . If you are without email, you may call Gerry at 482-0511.

TIMES: Social Hour 6:30 pm; Dinner at 7:30 pm (note new times).

AUCTION: Each member is allowed to bring up to three (3) items to include in the auction. Please know the name of the specimen and the specific location where it was found. We are accepting items having to do with earth science which would include rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, books, equipment, etc. The split is 80/20 with 80% of the proceeds going to the seller. Please bring your checkbook or cash. We do not accept credit cards.

PAYMENT: After the entire auction is done, you will be allowed to purchase your item by waiting in line. After you have paid for your item, we will then let you have your specimen. We need to do it this way to avoid total chaos. If you must leave early and know this ahead of time, please let one of the auction committee people know this before the dinner. We will try to accomodate you, but be patient with us.

GIFT EXCHANGE: And as always, we are doing a gift exchange. Bring a gift with a value of about \$5 wrapped, and exchange it with someone else who has done the same. Make sure to give them all to Anne Woods upon arrival who will then make sure no one gets their own gift back. She will then make sure everyone gets a new one. All gifts must be collected before any can be returned. Also, please make sure that the gift is rock related.

Directions from East Follow I-90 West to Exit 5 - Everett Road. Turn right onto Everett Road. Follow Everett Road until it ends at Central Avenue (You will see a car dealership on the corner). Make a right onto Central Avenue. The Gateway Diner is located on your right, shortly after you pass the first traffic light.

Directions from North and West Thruway Exit 24 or I-87 South to I-90 East. Follow I-90 East to Exit 5 - Everett Road. Turn right onto Everett Road. Follow Everett Road until it ends at Central Avenue (You will see a car dealership on the corner). Make a right onto Central Avenue. The Gateway Diner is located on your right, shortly after you pass the first traffic light. If you are continuing South after dining at the Gateway, return to Everett Road and follow I-90 East to I-787 South. You will avoid traffic congestion and enjoy a panoramic view of the Empire State Plaza. You will reenter the N.Y. Thruway at exit 23.

Directions from South Thruway Exit 23. Follow I-787 North to I-90 West. Continue on I-90 West to Exit 5 - Everett Road. Turn left onto Everett Road. Follow Everett Road until it ends at Central Avenue (You will see a car dealership on the corner). Make a right onto Central Avenue. The Gateway Diner is located on your right, shortly after you pass the first traffic light.



Bob Ballad and Curtis Breuer caving. photo
by Art Collins

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 Robert Stitham - general

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<http://www.albanyrockclub.com>

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.