

THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



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October 2009

October Meeting

Please come to the next meeting on October 1st. Our meeting will be John Betts doing a presentation "Minerals of New York City" (based on his recent article in the journal, Rocks & Minerals).

The meeting starts at 7:30pm. Please sign in at the security desk when you enter. The doors to the museum will be held open from 7:00-7:15pm (sometimes earlier, but hardly ever later). We look forward to meeting you. Feel free to bring a friend. Please leave extra time to get here, since some roads in Albany will be closed until 7pm due to the filming of a movie.

John Betts' Story

John Betts was born in Illinois in 1956 in a family full of artists (father: Edward Betts) and attended the University of Illinois receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Industrial Design in 1978. He worked for several industrial design (product design) consulting firms in Dallas, Chicago and New York. From 1984 to 2001 Mr. Betts worked for Henry Dreyfuss Associates, one of the oldest and most prestigious industrial designs firm in the country, attaining the position of Associate and acting Design Director. Among Mr. Betts successful designs, he has designed cameras for Polaroid and Kodak, medical instruments for Boehringer Mannheim, computer peripherals for Raritan Computer and the entire product line of fishing gear for Abu Garcia (Sweden). In 1990 Fusion Planning magazine (Japan) cited Mr. Betts as one of the top 50 product designers in the U.S. In 1994 Business Week magazine honored him with the highest honor in design with the Gold Design Excellence Award and featured his design for the Polaroid Vision camera in a full page article. Mr. Betts holds over 75 domestic and international design patents. Mr. Betts started collecting minerals in 1969 while living in California. His interest in minerals was heightened during summer vacation in Maine where he heard the famous mineral collector, Stan Perham lecture about the huge beryl crystals discovered at the Bumpus Quarry in Maine. John has collected Maine minerals along with other New England states ever since. His skills as a prolific field collector lead to modest mineral sales at local mineral shows in the New York City area. By 1990 he was selling at 12 mineral shows per year. In 1996 Mr. Betts started an internet web site selling minerals: johnbetts-fineminerals.com which rapidly expanded to the point that it was a second full time job. In 2001, after 23 years of working as a product designer, Mr. Betts left design work to devote his full energy to selling minerals. Today his internet web site sells over 5000 mineral specimens per year to customers around the world.

Membership Renewal

Most memberships run out on August 31, 2009 (except very new members), so bring your checkbooks to renew your memberships. Please give your money/check to the membership committee. Be sure you have your proper

email address with you. Nobody renewed at the meeting last month...save yourself a stamp and renew at the October meeting!

October 2009 Field Trip

Please note that you must make reservations with trip leaders ahead of time if you plan on attending a trip. Also please arrive at the location when specified. Most trip leaders will not wait for you, and it is not fair to the other field-trippers to ask them to.

October 3. Margaret Hastings, Club Claim. Meeting Place: 10 am - Fonda, NY at ice cream stand across from the race track. What to bring: Warm clothes to get dirty in. Bring a pail to carry your tools in. Garden tools, rock hammer, flat and bull point chisels, a screen to screen the dirt for herks. What to collect: Herkimer diamonds Contact: Call Jim Palmer on his cell at 577-6119 to sign up for this trip.

Saturday, September 12, 2009.

Lead Hill, Ticonderoga, NY

With wonderful weather and the sweet smell of rocks in the air, the club partaked in a trip to Natural Stone Bridge and Caves and to Lead Hill in Ticonderoga. Members on the Natural Stone Bridge and Caves tour included William Perry, Jo-anna Michalek, Deb Hewson, and Art Collins. It is safe to say members enjoyed the scenic views, soothing waters, and plentiful interesting geological features which included potholes, caves, gorges, and interesting petrology. After the two hour tour, the same group of members and an addition of Bob Kaufman, Chris Reed, April De Young, Florence Derry, Katy and Katies friend went to the first Graphite mine in United States in Ticonderoga. All members went home with plentiful samples of Graphite, Pyroxene, Calcite, and Quartz. Some members found excellent crystals of both Quartz and Pyroxene. With the end of the trip, the award of most rocks taken home was given to April De Young. It is of my opinion that all members had great fun and learned a little bit about geology and history of old mines. My thanks go out to everyone on the trip for making it a fun experience for myself and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did!

--Curtis Breuer

Saturday, September 19, 2009.

Stoddard Mine, Westmoreland, NH.

On a beautiful pre-Fall day, nine members of the Club set off for New Hampshire at about 7:45 am. Originally, the trip was limited to 15 people, but six people cancelled due to illness or other reasons, some with only the night before notice.

I hate to start this report off on a negative note, but this might be the last time we go to the Stoddard Mine and some members were turned

away that might have gone had we had adequate notice from those who cancelled (exception for the person who called to cancel because of illness).

Our trip to New Hampshire was uneventful except for a car problem before we left the meeting place in Brunswick, New York.

The William Wise Mine, known for its exquisite green Fluorite, had an "open house" and area residents were invited to go on a collecting trip to the mine, no fee required (usually about \$25.00 to 30.00 per person, I'm told). I asked the group, as we were guests of an area resident to the Stoddard Mine, if they wished to go on this trip as well, but they wanted to just collect at the Stoddard Mine.

The crowd of cars and people at the Wise Mine trip meeting point was expected (we passed where they had assembled at the little red school house).

At this point I have to say that arranging this trip required a visit before the trip with the mine owner in Westmoreland a few weeks before the September 19th trip, which was originally planned for August 29th, but was rained out. The mine owner wants a moratorium on further collecting on her property. So this was a one day access only.

The owner is a delightful person whom I had previously only spoken to on the telephone each time I obtained permission to conduct a field trip. My trip to speak to her in person about a field trip was a wonderful opportunity to finally meet face to face. We talked for hours and had lunch together in Keene.

For others who read this report: PLEASE DO NOT GO TO THE STODDARD MINE. The owner is concerned about liability and other issues. While her 350 acres is not posted, I can assure those who would contemplate a trip there, that they are not welcomed.

Back to our field trip, the participants were: Kevin Baskin, Kyle Baskin, Anna Reitz, Bob Kaufman, Max Fischer, Bill Williams, Bill Perry, Catherine Chiachiarretta, and Richard Hartnett. We were aided in our uphill walk by Kevin Baskin, whose vehicle ferried equipment and collectors up to the mid point from which we had to hike.

On arriving at the first pit, those of us who had been there before were shocked! It had been extensively cleaned up with piles of stone and low stone walls had been built up, and the land raked clean. At the second pit (midway to where we were going) we saw much the same thing: piles of mining artifacts such as broken glass, pottery, and rusty metal and more organized piles of stone.

When we finally got to the upper or third collecting site, the 500 foot long moderately deep gouge in the landscape, we encountered a highly organized clean up as in the other two areas. This must have taken hundreds of man hours. Paths wound between large rock piles. The site had been partly brushed hogged as there was a very large brush pile.

The bad news: Fluorite was very hard to find. Lots of Quartz, some with surface crystals and some crystals in vugs as well as the usual white Barite masses mixed with the Quartz. Light green Fluorite was found and some micro Malachite needles, but the collecting was not what some of us had remembered.

I have been going to the Stoddard Mine since 1968, and the changes there in the last year and a half (since we were there last) are more than the previous 40 years!

Incidentally, I called the owner after I got back to New York and she had no knowledge of the clean up work done at the sites and was going to investigate.

Future field trips, should they be authorized, would probably have to focus on opening new collecting areas or performing very hard work at the upper site to dig into undisturbed mounds. ---Richard Hartnett

On Your Own - Walworth Fluorite

Dolomite Products is having an open house again this year at their Walworth Quarry Oct. 10th & 11th. Sat. the dig is 7 AM to 2 PM. & Sun is 7 AM to 12 noon. Plan on being there by 6:45 AM to register & the safety talk before entering the quarry. PPE is required. Consider your need for sunscreen, bug spray, food & water. Handheld power tools are allowed. The Mine is providing safety officers but we try to help keep one another safe. There's a rest room available in the office area for us to use. The mine manager told me that they intend to drop some new rock the week before this dig so that's good news. If you join our club, we rent a chop saw for members to help cut those fluorites out.

Wayne Co. Gem & Mineral Club [WCGMC] has posted this dig on the EFTA site to get the word out. After the dig on Sat, we're having a picnic dinner, friendly swap & competition at Dave & Andrea Kords house on Huntley Rd. in Marion. Dinner costs are \$10 for adult & \$5 for children 8 & under. BYOB. RSVP by Oct. 4th to Andrea Kords at akords@computer-connection.net or call 585-732-0863. The competition will have three categories: 1. the best specimen collected that day, 2. the best fluorite in matrix collected that day & 3. the best fluorite floater collected that day. Specimens have to be there by 4 PM, judging is at 4:30 & dinner is at 5 PM. If you visit the Newark Gem & Mineral Show at St. Michael's School Rt. 88 Newark NY on Oct. 3rd or 4th, you can sign up there. We'll have a table & look forward to seeing you!

--Pat Chapman (President WCGMC)

Committee News

Debra Hewson has replaced Barbara Gearhardt as chair of the Library Committee. We thank Barbara for her many years of wonderful service to the club's library. In the search for a new chair, we found a few more members to add to the committee. Our new members are Bill Cotrofeld and Gregg Shields.

Bob Ballard and Bob Hartig have joined the Membership Committee.

Anne Woods has taken over the chair of the Show Committee. We would like to take this moment to thank George Gearhardt for his many years of dedication to making our club's participation in the Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale a great success. The members I have on the committee are: Bob Ballard, Tom Halleran, Max Fischer, Rich Stein, Bob Stitham, Rich Hartnett, Jo-anna Michalek, and Robert Hartig. If you wish to be added to this committee, let me know.

Teresa Breuer has joined the Newsletter Committee. In January 2010, she will be in charge of distributing paper copy of the newsletter when I supply her with the PDF.

2010 Show Helpers Needed

Helpers needed for February 20 and 21 from 10-5pm. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help the club co-sponsor this event for the NYS Museum, please email us at schmanie@albanyrockclub.com or call Anne at 518-322-7932 (leave a message with your name, number, and time which you want to volunteer for).

We have a number of different jobs available:

1. sell tickets;
2. floaters - walk around and give people breaks (a uniform might be in order...thinking on this);
3. sandbox dig helpers - assist children with specimens found in small sandbox tubs (find appropriate label, put in bag with specimen - must be at least one person on club table with knowledge of random specimen identification)
4. Membership - recruit passersby to membership in the club.
5. Openers - help on Friday night with setup
6. Closers - help on Sunday night with cleanup
7. We need to borrow a laptop that runs Powerpoint for the show. This computer can be taken home each night to be returned in the morning for the show.
8. set up displays for club table of club collected minerals and fossils (meeting required)

Friday night - need at least 3 openers (time TBA) + some people to set up club table so it is ready to go Saturday morning.

Sat - Ticket sales - I'll figure out shifts when I get a feel for the number of people willing to work. Morning ticket sale shifts start at 9am since flower show starts at 9:30am.

Sat - multiple floaters to take over random shifts. must be multi-talented - first shift starts at 9:30am

Sat - Club Table - 4-5 persons on table at a time...decide jobs amongst yourselves - arrive at 9:30am

Sun - same as Sat

Sun night - need at least 3 closers (5pm-?)

That is the general layout...many people have the same jobs every year. Please contact me to tell me which jobs you prefer and what times (days). It is easier for me if you write down your choice with your name and hand it to me or email it. I will set up a schedule based on the times, and then present it to you all to make sure I did correctly.

Need EFMLS Liason

If you are planning on attending the EFMLS Annual Convention in Bristol, CT on October 16-18, 2009, please let me know, and I can have you represent the club.

Reimbursements for June Banquet

As soon as we get the check back from the NYS Museum Institute for the reimbursements, Treasurer Bob will start making out checks to people who attended the banquet. Please note that only members of the club get the check. If you attended the banquet as a guest of a member, you will not get reimbursement. We have a list of the people who attended the banquet on hand, as well as pictures from the event.

Minutes from February Club Meeting 2009

Capital District Mineral Club Minutes

Thursday September 3, 2009

Curtis Breuer, Secretary

Met at the New York State Museum at 7:00, thirty-three members were in attendance. Linda was a new member. Meeting was called to order at 7:38 by President Anne Woods. Bruce introduced our program of Show and Tell. Steve Kelland, Kevin Baskin, William Perry, Jo-anna Michalek, Bill Cotrofeld, Bob Stitham, Laurie Beth, Curtis Breuer, Art Collins, Richard Hartnett, and Jane Kaplan all had items to share with the club. George Gearhardt wants to give up the show committee chairman and is looking for a replacement. Mike Hawkins announced the Minerals of New York City exhibit in the Museum and talked to us about our next speaker: John Betts, a prominent collector and mineral dealer that has done articles in Rocks and Minerals. We took a break and announced the raffle which made \$41.00. Secretary's Report was given by Curtis Breuer; Kevin Baskin, motioned to accept the minutes, George Gearhardt seconded, club accepted. Treasurer's Report was given by Bob Stitham; Balance on Hand May 1st: \$8185.47, Raffle: \$64.00, Interest: \$4.69, Dues: \$86.00, June Auction: \$245.60, Disbursements: None, Balance on Hand September 1st: \$ 8585.76, Richard Hartnett motioned to accept the report, Jim Palmer seconded, club accepted. Membership Committee: Jim Palmer did not accept any dues at this meeting, therefore any memberships would have to be paid next month. Banquet Committee: Bob Stitham announced that Mike Hawkins will give each member who attended the banquet \$15.00. Field Trip Committee: Field Trip Leaders announced their field trips. New Business: New Librarian Debra Hewson was announced. No Old Business. Bob Stitham motioned a close, Richard Hartnett seconded, all in favor.

Future Mineral Shows

October 3-4. Newark, NY. Wayne County Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale "Minerals from Around the World". Sat 10AM -5PM; Sun 10AM - 4PM. St. Michael's School, 320 Main Street (Route 88), Newark, New York, Admission is \$3.00. Children under 12 are FREE! Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs are available For more Information e-mail us at: dave@americanhobbyshop.com Or Call: (315)986-1171

October 17-18. Bristol, CT: 37th annual show/EFMLS Annual Convention; Bristol Gem & Mineral Club; Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$4, children under 12 free; gems, jewelry, mineral specimens, crystals, hands-on educational exhibits, grand door prize, free children's games and activities; contact Dave Korzendorfer, 208 Westledge Rd., W. Simsbury, CT 06092, (860) 651-9980; e-mail: Bristolgem@hotmail.com; Web site: www.Bristolgem.org

October 17-18. Johnstown, NY: Show; Fulton County Mineral Club; Johnstown Moose Lodge, 109 Comrie Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults and seniors \$2, students and children free; contact Paul Cornell, 122 Skunk Hollow Rd., Gloversville, NY 12078, (518) 725-7076; e-mail: pllenroc@frontiernet.net

October 24-25. Freeport, NY: Show; Village of Freeport; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children under 12 free; contact Ralph Gose, P.O. Box 1418, Melville, NY 11747, (631) 271-8411; kaleidoscopegemshows@yahoo.com

October 24-25. Henrietta, NEW YORK: 37th annual show, "Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show"; Rochester Academy of Science Mineral Section, Rochester Lapidary Society; Minett Hall, Monroe County Fair & Expo Center, corner of E. Henrietta Rd. and Calkins Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; dealers, demonstrations, door prizes, kids' activities; contact Paul Dudley, 140 Railroad Mills Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534, (585) 385-2368; e-mail: show@rasny.org; Web site: www.rasny.org/showonwood, and Wasatch Rooms), 9750 S 300 W; Wed. 12-4; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/



Iceland ice flow with glacier in background. (photo by Robert Stitham)..

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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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