

THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



Publication of the Capital District Mineral Club, Inc.
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P.O. Box 12814, Albany, New York 12212-2814

October 2006

Next Meeting

Please come to the next meeting on October 5. 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.

September Program Review

The "Show and Tell" program allowed members to pass the specimens around the room while they told (explained) how they can to add these items to their collection over the summer months.

October Speaker

The October Speaker will be club member Richard Hartnett. Richard joined the Capital District Mineral Club in 1990. He has been an avid mineral and fossil collector since his early childhood and he has an extensive collection.

Richard will speak on the Quartz "family" of minerals and he will bring specimens of some not so common quartz minerals such as staurolite quartz, chrysoprase, and rose quartz crystals. He will talk about crystal form, electrical conductivity, uses, common admixture elements, varieties, interesting facts, color, identifying traits, and why quartz is a silicate and not an oxide (silicon dioxide).

Dues are Due

If you look at the label on your newsletter, **and the date has** passed, you need to renew your membership. Membership dues are \$14 per individual, \$20 per family, and \$5 per student. Dues can be paid to the membership committee at the October meeting. Please note that one must have a current up-to-date membership card to attend fieldtrips. If you are not paid up-to-date soon, your newsletter may stop arriving at your home.

December Banquet

The December Banquet on December 7, 2006 will be held once again at the Rexford Fire Station in Rexford, NY. This is one of two meetings per year where you must pay in advance before you may attend. You may bring a date, a friend, children, or a spouse, but they must pay for separate dinners. Please arrive at 6pm for the social hour. Dinner will be served at 7pm. It will be buffet style all you can eat. The menu items are as follows: Beef Stroganoff,

Chicken and Biscuits, Vegetable Lasagna, Roasted Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Salad, Assorted Cookies and Bars, Caramel Shortbread, and Coffee and Tea. The price of the dinner will be \$12.50 per person. Please contact George Gearhardt at 355-0670 (ggear@atecone.net) if you are planning on attending this dinner and wish to make a reservation. Please note that your reservation will not be set in stone until we receive your check. Please make all checks payable to: Capital District Mineral Club. Please mail them to the club P.O. Box which can be found on the back of this newsletter. There will also be the traditional auction at this dinner. Not sure whether it is silent or loud this time around...I'll check on that for you all. Members are asked to bring 3 specimens (fossils, minerals, books, lapidary, jewelry, hammers, chisels, etc.). The only catch is that the material put in the auction must have something to do with our club and the collecting of rocks/minerals, or the upkeep of them.

Gerry Boileau

October Field Trips

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.

Oct 7. Barrus Ledge, Goshen, MA. The site is located approximately 1/2 hour east of Pittsfield, MA. Meeting Place: Glenmont School Parking Lot, Route 9W, Glenmont, NY. Time: 9:00 am. Field Trip Leader: Richard Hartnett (518) 439-7243. Bring small and heavy sledge hammers, hard shoes (no sneakers), collecting bucket, gloves, safety glasses. The large boulders are pegmatite, but there is lots to collect off the ground if you rather not pound on the rock. Ten minute walk to collecting site from where you park. Minerals to collect: Indicolite (sky blue to dark blue Tourmaline), Goshenite (clear Beryl), Lepidolite, Rubellite (pink Tourmaline), Elbaite (green Tourmaline). Goshenite and Indicolite are very rare minerals. We will be collecting at a llama farm (50 llamas) in a very rocky, wooded setting. The farm has been in the same family since 1812 and comprises 850 acres. This field trip is not appropriate for small children (under age 10). Hard rock miners will love it. You are guaranteed to find some tourmaline.

Oct 14 Illion Gorge, NY. Meeting time is 10:30am. Minerals to collect: Travertine [calcite flow stone], calcified moss. Tools: Hammer, chisels, digging tools, heavy hammers, pry bars. The location is on a closed road. This means something with wheels

[I'm bringing my little red wagon] is very useful for carrying tools in and rocks out. The walk down is dry but the valley is full of springs. You may expect to get wet and/or muddy at some of the collecting sites in the valley. Wear old clothes and bring a change of clothes. Facilities: None at the site, but we will only be 10 miles from Illion and Herkimer. There are plenty of eating etc places there. Meeting place: due to limited amount of space to park at the site, I recommend that you carpool. A suggested spot for you to park your car is as follows. Car Pool location: Park n Ride, Rt. 5 just off exit 26 of I-90. Leave I-90 at exit 26 and head west on I-890. Cross the Mohawk River and turn left on Rt. 5. You will see the Park & Ride to the left. Two lefts put you in the parking lot. Parking at the collecting site is limited. The carpool location is 1 ½ hours from the meeting place in Illion. The meeting location is McDonalds in downtown Illion. Take I-90 to exit 30 [Herkimer]. Turn left and cross the Mohawk. Take 5-S west and follow the signs to Illion. Allow 1 ½ hours drive time from Albany. Please contact fieldtrip leader: Bob Ballard at 377-8656 or rballad@nycap.rr.com if you wish to attend.

Bob Ballard

Field Trip Reports

1. September 9. Cascade Lake Sightseeing Trip, was cancelled due to lack of participation and rain.

2. September 16. Saint Clair, Pennsylvania. Participants met on site in the parking area at 10am. The weather was slightly breezy but pleasant, so that kept most of the bugs away. Field Trip Leader Anne Woods led members Bob Stitham, Cheryl Halleran, Tom Halleran, and Robert Cline down through the woods onto the site. We stayed for most of the day collecting numerous fossils in black shale. Many people made multiple trips back to the car throughout the day to reload their packs. We noted the last time that fossil fern on shale is surprisingly heavy, so three of the members this time brought little wagons to tote the rocks back on. This served to be a back saver. Although the rocky terrain on the walk back did produce vibrations which made some of the rocks end up as dust by the end of the trek. What is the solution to this problem you ask? I have no idea. If it wasn't the rocky terrain, then the speed bumps in the road going into Saint Clair sure didn't help either. Needless to say, some of the samples packed on the bottom of the totes came home looking more like confetti than fossils, but the ones above were preserved, and yes folks, they were wrapped in newspaper and packed neatly away in separate plastic containers. Items collected included yellow fern (iron stain - makes for a neat artwork type look), white fossil fern (mineral replacement), fossil leaves, and plant parts on black shale. Some members got more coal on them than others, but it all eventually washed off later with some heavy duty scrubbing. It has been rumored that one should not wash the fern fossil from this location, but some slipped into the washing machine and survived...so I guess it is more about the way you wash your specimens, than a straight forward rule. Then again, perhaps it was the delicate cycle for the washing machine. I guess it is better safe than sorry...so just be careful how you choose to wash your specimens...cause sometimes, you might wash off the fossil as well. The fossils are from the Llewellyn Formation (300 mya, Pennsylvanian Period). The ferns most commonly found are *Alethopteris*, *Neuropteris*, and *Pecopteris*. Members found a couple of specimens too large and impossible to get out due to one

being on a fault line, and the other just to pretty to want to disturb. Hopefully someone got a picture of that.

Anne Woods

3. July 29. Stoddard Mine. Westmoreland, New Hampshire..

Seven intrepid souls made the trek to the Stoddard Fluorite Mine in Westmoreland, New Hampshire on a hot July day. Embarking from Brunswick, New York, Ryan Sapienza, Caitlin and Robert Penner, Ann Cosgrove, Ben Bradley, Bob Ballard, and trip leader Richard Hartnett headed out at 8:10 am on the journey.

One club member, whose name shall be withheld, did not read his newsletter carefully and thought we were leaving at 9:00 am, and hence missed the trip. We missed this person's company as he is always good company and enthusiastic.

The group of seven (7) voted to stop for breakfast at our traditional stop on this trip, Dot's Diner in Wilmington, Vermont. As usual, the food was a good source of "fuel" for the collecting work ahead.

We arrived on site at around 11:00am only to find that the rain had washed a deep groove in the road leading into the field where we park vehicles. Two well-prepared field trip participants produced shovels and we proceeded to put dirt and rocks into the hazard so that cars could traverse the nuisance. Of course, Bob Ballard's behemoth of a vehicle made it over the terrain with no problem.

We found the road leading up to the collecting sites, at the lower level, had been filled with a combination of dirt and rock with large tree roots mixed in to make it interesting. It also seemed wider. But the rain had made the road a muddy mess, which only a 4 wheeled drive high off the road vehicle could attempt, and that with skilled driving.

Bob Ballard and his vehicle answered the challenge. He and I made one experimental trip up to the first collecting site to see if it was feasible, and then we returned to the group, gathering up all equipment and ferrying it up hill while the remaining group followed on foot. All we grateful that equipment and specimens road down the same way rather than having to be carried by weary rockhounds.

We ran into Mike the Fireman (we don't know his full name) and companion from Keene, NH. As usual, he was the source of information and he had done an astounding amount of work at the lower pit and the intermediate pit, which he recently excavated extensively.

The lower pit yielded quartz crystals, malachite needles/flecks, and green fluorite. After collecting there for a while, we went to the intermediate pit Mike had worked. At this site there were mainly quartz crystals, but there were mine artifacts galore. I found a blue inkwell in almost perfect condition. There were old bottles, broken china, old sun glasses, metal artifacts, and so forth.

We continued on to the big upper site --- the 500 foot long cut --- and resumed collecting. Purple fluorite was found as well as small amounts of blue. Massive white barite was available by itself of intermixed with quartz and fluorite. No one reported finding any

pyrite or chalcopyrite this time.

Around 2:45pm there was a cool breeze, which I interpreted as a weather change and in summer that frequently means a thunderstorm or heavy rain. I summonsed the troops, and we headed out at 3:00pm to the cars. Just as well, because we just got to the cars and it started to rain. As we all left, the heavens opened up and there was a heavy downpour (be we were all dry in our vehicles). My next occupation will be as a weather forecaster.

Everyone reported having a good time and successful collecting experience. We took in one new member on the trip, Ben Bradley. He had downloaded the application form from our website.

Richard Hartnett

Rock and Gem Shows

October 7. Macungie, PA. Show, "Autumn Mineralfest"; Macungie Memorial Park, eight miles southwest of Allentown; Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association; Sat. 8:30-3; adults \$2, children under 12 free; Contact Ed Richards, (610) 641-8010; e-mail: mineralfest@aol.com; Web site: www.mineralfest.com.

October 7-8. Newbury, NH. 43rd annual show; Capital Mineral Club; Sunapee Ski Area, Rte. 103; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Contact Jonathan Herndon, P.O. Box 520, Center Ossipee, NH 03814-0520.

October 14-15. Bristol, CT. 34th 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 14-15. East Vandergrift, PA. Show; Kit-Han-Ne Rock & Gem Club; Worthington-West Franklin Firehall, Rte. 422; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Contact Albert Zabinski, 235 Quay St., East Vandergrift, PA 15629, (724) 567-7067.

October 21-22. Rhinebeck, NY. 37th annual show and sale, "Fabulous Feldspars"; Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Rhinebeck Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Route 9; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; fairground admission \$10, children under 12 free; part of the Sheep & Wool Family Festival At Rhinebeck, free rocks for kids, minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils, beads, meteorites, lapidary demos, exhibits, tools, books, wholesaler, earth science scavenger hunt for HS students, grand prize, hourly raffles; Contact Carolyn Reynard, (845) 471-1224; e-mail: sunstone3@hvc.rr.com; or Jack Rowland, (845) 297-3556; e-mail: heliodor@cutstones.com; Web site: www.geocities.com/nyrockhounds.

October 28-29. Freeport (Long Island), NY. Annual fall show; Village of Freeport; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4.50, children under 12 free with parent; Contact John Andersen, P.O. Box 551, N. Bellmore, NY 11710-0551, (516) 781-8410.

October 28-29. Rochester, NY. Show; Minett Hall, Monroe County Fair Grounds, corner of Rte. 15A and Calkins Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children under 12 free with adult; Contact Larry Schulman, (585) 271-6967; e-mail: namluhcs@aol.com.

October 28-29. Somerset, PA. 37th annual show; Appalachian Gem & Mineral Club; Somerset Jr./Sr. High School Gymnasium, 645 S. Columbia Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; Contact Cameron Benko, 283 Hufford Hill Rd., Portage, PA 15946, (814)

931-7438; e-mail: cbenko3143@aol.com.

November 4-5. Exton, PA. 37th annual show, "Gemarama 2006"; Tuscarora Lapidary Society; CFS, School at Church Farm, Business Rte. 30 and Rte. 202; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Contact Nancy Marks, (570) 342-1355; e-mail: LolaLfields@yahoo.com; Web site: www.lapidary.org.

November 4-5. Old Greenwich, CT. Annual show; Stamford Mineralogical Society; Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd., I-95 Exit 5, follow signs; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4:30; adults \$5, children under 12 \$2; Contact Reivan Zeleznik, 39 Pepper Ridge Pl., Stamford, CT 06905, (203) 322-3297; e-mail: rzlapidary@yahoo.com.

EFTA Trips

To book a place on a trip a club member must make the request through Bob Hartig (518-842-5948). The EFTA representative contacts the EFTA representative from the Host Club and makes the arrangements at least 2 weeks prior to the trip. No individual members are to contact the EFTA representatives of other clubs. EFTA representatives vouch for the eligibility of the persons they refer to other clubs' field trips.

Oct 7-8 Walworth Fluorite. E.F.T.A (formerly N.E.F.T.A.) and The Dolomite Group Proudly Presents "FLUORITE FANTASY WEEKEND V" Walworth Quarry Walworth, NY. October 7th and 8th 2006 Please come join us at the dig! All E.F.T.A. Clubs are invited to a Weekend of Digging and Fun. Register with EFTA by Sept 20 or pay extra \$5 late fee over the \$11. Hotels in the area.

Oct. 14. MLSRV. PA, Lancaster Co. Calcite, dolomite, barite, sphalerite, fluorite. 8:30 AM-1PM. Working quarry rules. 18 and older. No facilities. EFMLS card required. Contact Dave Rieur +1 (908) 938-5525 or crystalcutz@yahoo.com

Oct. 14. Delaware Mineralogical Society. JT Dyer Quarry, Gibraltar, PA. Collect: zeolites, pyrite and calcite. Limit 10 people, working quarry rules. Need safety glasses, rock hammer, chisels, hardhat, and steel-toed boots. Contact glauconite5@yahoo.com for details.

Oct. 21. The Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Pearl Lake, Lisbon, NH. for staurolite (some "fairy" crosses) and garnet crystals.

Oct. 28. Delaware Mineralogical Society. Valley Quarries Gettysburg (Teeter) Quarry, Gettysburg, PA. Collect: zeolites, pyrite and calcite Limit 10 people, working quarry rules. Need safety glasses, rock hammer, chisels, hardhat, and steel-toed boots. Contact glauconite5@yahoo.com for details.

Nov. 18. Delaware Mineralogical Society. Arundel Quarry, Havre de Grace, MD for pyrite cubes and epidote crystals. Limit 10 people, working quarry rules. Need safety glasses, rock hammer, chisels, hard hat, and steel-toed boots. Contact glauconite5@yahoo.com for details.

Dec. 2. Delaware Mineralogical Society. Wissahickon Creek, Philadelphia, PA. A two (2) mile geologic tour/excursion along Wissahickon Creek in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, near Valley Green. Exposures of the Wissahickon schist and associated pegmatites contain garnet, some kyanite, staurolite. Limit 20 people, children allowed. Need safety glasses, rock hammer, chisels, and hiking shoes/boots. Contact glauconite5@yahoo.com for details.

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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.