

THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



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October 2007

Next Meeting

Please come to the next meeting on October 4th. Our October meeting will feature speaker Dr. Steve Chamberlain, a mineralogist from Syracuse University. 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.

Most memberships ran out in August, so bring your checkbooks to renew your memberships if you haven't already done so this year.

Dr. Steve Chamberlain's Bio

Steve Chamberlain was born December 13, 1946, in Everett, Pennsylvania. He earned his BS degree in Electrical Engineering (with a minor in Mineralogy) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1968, served in the Army (Army Commendation, Meritorious Service Medal) from 1970 to 1973, and received his PhD in Sensory Sciences from Syracuse University in 1978. In 2006 he resigned his position as tenured Full Professor at Syracuse University, where he served as the Founding Chair of the Department of Bioengineering, and Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences.

Steve has also served as Consulting Editor for Rocks & Minerals magazine since 1980, as Convening Co-chairman of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium since 1986, as Coordinator for the Center for Mineralogy of the New York State Museum since 2001, and as Scientific Editor of the Hosta Journal since 2000. His personal bibliography includes over 200 papers, chapters and abstracts in the fields of neuroscience, horticulture and mineralogy.

Steve began seriously collecting minerals in 1960, initially specializing in the minerals of Pennsylvania, then changing to the minerals of New York and Canada in 1974. As of 2000 his collection numbered approximately 26,000 specimens, including micromounts, thumbnails, miniatures and cabinet-size specimens. In 2000 he began to sell off (via mineral dealers C. Carter Rich and Mike Walter, and collector Bruce Jarnot) the non-New York specimens in preparation for donating the New York portion of his collection to the New York State Museum in Albany, beginning in 2006. His remaining New York State collection includes most of the New York specimens from the historic John H. Caswell collection, many significant New York specimens from the William S. Condon collection, the best New York specimens from the Ron Waddell collection, and many of the New York specimens gathered in the collections of Dr. George W. Robinson and his father George Robinson, Sr., among many others. The collection as a whole is characterized by

extensive representation of high-end specimens, many unique specimens, and extraordinary depth in specimens of scientific and historical interest. A rotating exhibit of specimens from the Chamberlain collection has been on loan to the New York State Museum since 2001

-Official bio from Mineralogical Record Biography Archive Website

Field Trips

October 6. Exploratory Field Trip around the area of Warrensburg, NY. Please contact Gerry Boileau at 482-0511

October 13-14. The Illion, NY trip (originally for Oct. 13) has been cancelled to make way for the Fluorite Fantasy Weekend in Walworth, NY (near Rochester) (see page 3, this newsletter).

Until further notice: the Stoddard Mine in Westmoreland, NH is closed to all collecting. It has been posted by the owner.

2007 Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Field Trip Itinerary

September 29-30. Franklin Mineral Museum's 51st Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show. Franklin School, Washington Ave. Info - Lee Lowell 973/827-3658. Show Treasurer. fmm1954@earthlink.net

October 6-7..Boston Mineral Club fieldtrip to Marion, Kentucky October 6-9, 2007..Nate Martin from Boston Mineral Club "...to collect at fluorite localities in Kentucky and Illinois. I can take up to 30 people on this trip so far have about 15 registered from the Boston Mineral Club. Thus I am opening it to members of EFTA clubs in addition to Boston Mineral club members. This will be my fourth trip into this area and I am looking forward to introducing others to this unique collecting opportunity."

October 13-14 Walworth Fluorite Fantasy Weekend (see p. 3)

October 13. Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association, Monroe Co., PA. Calcite, dolomite, fossils, fluorite. Meet 7:30 AM at exit Saylorsburg of Route 33 North on Cherry Valley Road, no persons under age 18, no facilities, 48 hour minimum sign up and EFMLS card required. Directions through Merrill Dickinson +1 (610) 473-9973.

October 13. 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.

October 21. Delaware Mineralogical Society. Liberty Lake Mine Dumps. North of Sykesville MD. Limit 10 people. Note: There will be a 3/4 mile hike along the reservoir to the collecting area. Minerals to collect include pyrite, magnetite, chalcopyrite, malachite smudges, and more. Need safety glasses, rock hammer, and chisels. Contact glauconite5@yahoo.com for details.

October 21...Orange County Mineral Society, Roxbury, CT for garnets great spot for new collectors. Contact George Gardianos 845-683-1167 or gggard@optonline.net

Rock Shows 2007

- 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.
- September 29-30. Franklin, NJ. 51st annual show; Franklin Mineral Museum; Franklin School, Washington Ave.; Contact Lee Lowell, (973) 827-6671.
- October 5-7. Newark, NY. 24th annual Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Convention; Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club; Quality Inn, Fri. 12-9, Sat. 8-7, Sun. 8-4; Annual EFMLS meeting Fri., competitive exhibits, dig Sun., Diamond Dig at Crystal Grove Mon.; Contact Andrea Kords, 50 Commercial St., Webster, NY 14580, (585) 872-3900; show@americanhobbyshop.com; www.americanhobbyshop.com/wcgm/efmls_07show/main.html.
- October 6. Macungie, PA. Show, "Spring Mineralfest"; Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association; Macungie Memorial Park, Sat. 8:30-3; adults \$2, Contact Vince Olsovsky, 531 Mickley Rd., Whitehall, PA 18052, mineralfest@verizon.net; www.mineralfest.com.
- October 6-7. Newark, NY. 14th annual show, 2007 EFMLS Federation Convention Show; Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club; St. Michael's School, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, Contact David Kords, P.O. Box 64, Walworth, NY 14568, show@americanhobbyshop.com; www.americanhobbyshop.com/wcgm/.
- October 13-14. Bristol, CT. 35th annual show; Bristol Gem & Mineral Club, Beals Community Center, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, Contact Dave Korzendorfer, 208 Westledge Rd., W. Simsbury, CT 06092, bristolgem@hotmail.com; www.bristolgem.org.
- October 20-21. Rhinebeck, NY. Retail/wholesale show and sale, "The Amazing World of Agates"; Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; admission \$10; part of the New York State Sheep & Wool & Family Festival, Contact Carolyn Reynard, 110 College Ave. Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, sunstone3@hvc.rr.com; www.geocities.com/ny-rockhounds.
- October 27-28. Freeport, NY Annual fall show; Village of Freeport; Freeport Recreation Center, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4.50 Contact Ralph Gose, P.O. Box 1418, Melville, NY 11747, ralph_gose@yahoo.com.
- 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, hheinzer@rochester.rr.com; www.rochesterlapidary.org.
- November 3-4. Old Greenwich, CT. 18th annual show; Stamford Mineralogical Society; Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4:30; adults \$5, Contact John Gray, 32 Harned Pl., Trumbull, CT 06611, jgray09@snet.net; www.stamfordmineralsociety.org.
- November 10-11. Manhattan, NY. NY Mineralogical Club; Holiday Inn, 440 W. 57 St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$6, Contact Tony Nikischer, (914) 739-1134; e-mail: tony@excaliburmineral.com.

Organic Gemstones

Organic gemstones are rare and beautiful, but they lack the durability of gemstones from minerals such as Beryl (Emerald, Aquamarine, etc.), Diamond, Topaz, and Corundum (Ruby, Sapphire). These minerals have Mohs scale hardness from 8 to 10 (remember, 10 is 10,000 times harder than one on the scale).

Amber is a polymerized resin or sap from ancient pine trees, similar to plastic, and it comes in colors from light yellow to dark brown; however, it can also be red, orange, blue, violet, and other colors. It is often carved into beads, can take a good polish, and can be dyed many colors. Amber on the Mohs scale has a hardness of 2 to 2.5.

Pearls are formed in mollusks such as oysters and freshwater clams. The mollusk produces nacre around an irritant like a piece of sand or broken shell grain, either introduced within the oyster intentionally by pearl farmers to induce the formation of pearls, or occurring naturally. Pearls have a hardness of 2.5 to 4.5 on the Mohs scale. They come in a wide variety

of colors from black and cream to purple, violet, white, rose, red, and bronze.

Jet has a hardness of 2.5 to 4.0, and it is carbon along with various hydrocarbon compounds. It is really a black coal used in carvings, beads, and decorative objects.

Coral is calcium carbonate (calcite) mainly. Its hardness range is 3.5 to 4.0. Tiny marine animals produce this material. Gem coral can be almost translucent or opaque. Colors range from white to pink, orange, red, blue, violet, and black, although black coral is not calcium carbonate, but results from other organic substances.

While hardness is a significant factor in gem value, pearls can command huge prices even though they are relatively fragile and black coral is rare another factor in cost.

Richard Hartnett

Gilsum, NH Little Town with Heart

Perhaps no other subject or geographic area has been praised or written about more in our show reports than Gilsum, New Hampshire. This year, once again, Gilsum distinguished itself with another record rock and mineral show.

Saturday, June 23rd, 2007 a new record first day was set for the Gilsum Rock and Mineral Swap. The village of 780 residents hosted 6,000 visitors on the grounds surrounding Gilsum School. This is a "best estimate" from show chair Rob Mitchell.

Rob and his committee gather figures based on gate donations from parking and volunteers who monitor traffic flow. The previous record first day attendance was set in 2004 during the 40th anniversary celebration of the show with 5,000 collectors and families attending opening day.

This was our seventh year as dealers. It was also a "homecoming" as we marked our very first visit to Gilsum way back in June of 1997, ten years! Returning to Gilsum is now equivalent to a vacation, business trip, and annual reunion with friends and "family."

Since the past 43rd show and a very positive two-day experience for us, I reflected on just what makes Gilsum repeat success year after year. Probably there are no pat answers. My feeling is that it is in the "heart" of people, who organize set-up, operate and volunteer their time for those two important days.

Gilsum is a town covering 16.7 square miles in the beautiful Ashuelot River valley. The town once was a center for mining activity that produced feldspar, mica and high quality beryl, tourmaline and quartz. Over 60 old mine locations in surrounding areas are now quiet testimony to times past.

Aside from the town store, church, library, post office and automotive garage, the town still maintains a humble and quiet assortment of cottage businesses such as a pizza parlor, a sports graphics shop. World famous W.S. Badger Company which makes lip balms, potions and other natural products fills out the town business listings.

Local demography based on the last census indicates a population of 780 with approximately 301 households. In those households there are 220 families 24.6 percent of which have children under the age of 18 years

old. (Census figures) That computes to about 54 families with children.

My knowledge of the Gilsum Recreation Committee, even after all these years was sketchy. I contacted committee chairman, Rob Mitchell. He was kind enough to give his usual same day reply.

Rob stated that six non-profit community organizations run concessions. They contribute 10% of their profits to the Recreation Committee to use for the recreation programs. The committee is made up of representatives from fifteen town organizations. Each has a vote as to how the event is run and how the money is spent.

He says, "Volunteers help with parking, the information booth, setup and tear down. In past years Keene Sentinel newspaper of the nearest large town usually offered sponsorship and advertising for the show.

Rob estimates that between all the events, Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show engages time of approximately 60 people. Townspeople donating homemade beans, coleslaw and pies for the Saturday night dinner plus other volunteer activities swell the ranks of the active to about 100.

All told, by all estimates, about 12.82% of Gilsum's population offer time, goods and/or talent to making Gilsum one continuous success story. This year show attendance was between 6,000 to 8,000 visitors comprised of collectors and families.

Rob attributes success of the annual show to volunteers and small town hospitality. He states that "the community pulls together to pull out the red carpet."

Gilsum, New Hampshire is proof of a little town that could that did, and still does prove itself year after year for 43 years. Gilsum is probably the finest open air small town rock and mineral swap/show in the northeast, perhaps the whole country.

This beautiful little New Hampshire town sets a splendid example, sets the bar for rock and mineral shows every where. Gilsum is a tribute to efforts by small and dedicated groups of individuals to make a difference in their community or club.

June 2008 is just months away. Set your travel plans up to include a visit to the Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show June 28-29, 2008. Linda and I will be there as dealers, doing our part to make the show a success.

For any prospective dealers out there Rob says, "We usually have a few spaces open each year for new dealers." You can contact him, rmitche160@gmail.com or call (603) 357-9636.

Your first visit to Gilsum will convince you, the town has heart.
Don Kauffman

**E.F.T.A (formerly N.E.F.T.A.) and The Dolomite Group Proudly Presents "FLUORITE FANTASY VI" at Walworth Quarry in Walworth, NY on October 13TH and 14TH 2007
Please come join us at the dig! All E.F.T.A. Clubs are Invited to a Weekend of Digging and Fun.**

The weekend itinerary as follows:

SATURDAY - October 13th: A. Arrival and sign up** at Walworth Quarry: 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. B. Mandatory Safety meeting! – 7:45 am Sharp C. Collecting hours – from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. SHARP D. Drive to Dave and Andrea Kords' House E. Judging For Best in Fluorites: 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m F. Social Hour/ Swap: 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. G. Awards 5:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. H. Buffet Style Dinner from 5:15 p.m. Till.

SUNDAY – October 14th Itinerary: A. Arrival and sign – in – 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. B. Mandatory safety meeting – begins promptly at 7:45 a.m. C. Collecting Hours 8:00am till 12:00 Noon D. Old fashion swapping and selling if you would like. E. WE ALL NEED TO BE OUT AS A GROUP by 12:00 P.M. F. Drive Safely Home and we hope to see you next year.

FLUORITE FANTASY WEEKEND – IV REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(s): _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: () _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
CLUB AFFILIATION: _____

Weekend costs:

I am enclosing, either a check or money order for \$27.50 per person times the total that will be in my group. This is my fee for two days of digging and the Dinner on Saturday \$27.50 X ____ = \$____ (please note late fee)

I will be unable to attend the Dinner on Saturday evening, but would like to collect for the two days. Therefore, I am enclosing a check or money order, \$11.00 per person times the total number of people in my group. \$11.00 X ____ = \$____ (please note late fee)

For Our Younger Rock Hounds (ages 6 to 12 years) I am enclosing \$17.50 for each child for Dinner and two days of digging. \$17.50 X _____=\$____ (please note late fee)

I will be unable to attend the Dinner but would like to collect for two days. I am enclosing a check or money order for \$6.00 per child for both Saturday and Sunday. All children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. \$6.00 X ____ = \$____ (please note late fee)

Late registration received "Post Marked" after September 20th must include \$5.00 per person for late fee. Late Fee \$5.00 X ____ = \$____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make your check or money order payable to: E.F.T.A. and mail to: EFTA c/o David Kords, P.O. Box 64, Walworth, NY 14568
Anyone with questions can call or E-mail us at dave@americanhobbyshop.com or call (315)-986-1171 ask for Dave

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Can you name these fossils? It was found and left be on the Isle La Motte, Vermont. It is in an area of conservation. Any idea what it could be? E-mail the club with suggestions.
(Photography by A. Woods 2007)



Officers:

President	Cheryl Halleran	518-929-4068
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Robert Stitham

Website:

<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.