

MEETING: will be on October 2nd at 7:30pm and will be held at the NYS Museum on Madison Avenue in Albany, New York.

As usual, the Museum is closed at this time

But someone will be in the lobby from 6:45pm to 7:15pm to open the door for you. The guards will not open the door after 7:30pm, so be on time and sign in at the lobby desk. The meeting will be held in Room B on the concourse level. There is an elevator available or the escalator may be working.

DUES ARE DUE!!!!

Our fiscal year ends August 31st, therefore your dues are due right now. Send to our post office box or bring to the meeting.

The cost is: Family's at \$20.; Single's at \$14.; and Student's at \$8. Reminder: new members joining this year, your dues are not due until August 31, 2009.

PROGRAM: R. Bruce Murray our program chairman has arranged a lecture by Dr. Richard J. Thompson, who is the Dean of Mathematics & Sciences at the College of St. Rose in Albany. The lecture is entitled, CRYSTAL CLEAR: The Struggle for Reliable Communications Technology in World War II. Some of the defining leaps in technology in the twentieth century occurred during the Second World War,

from radar to nuclear energy. Often left out of historical discussions are quartz crystal oscillators, which to be just as pivotal to the Allied victory and to post-war development as other technologies. Quartz crystals provided the U.S. military, for the first time, with reliable communications on the front lines then went on to become the core of some of the most basic devices of the post-war era, from watches, clocks, and color televisions, to cell phones and computers.

In CRYSTAL CLEAR, Dr. Richard Thompson relates the story of the quartz crystal in World War II, from its early days as a curiosity for amateur radio enthusiasts, to its use by the US Armed Forces. It follows the intrepid group of scientists and engineers from the Office of the Chief Signal Officer in the U.S. Army as they raced to create an effective quartz unit. They had to find a reliable supply of radio-quality quartz: devise methods to reach, mine, and transport the quartz; find a way to manufacture quartz oscillators rapidly; and then solve the puzzling "aging problem" that plagued the early units. Ultimately, the development of quartz oscillators became the second largest scientific undertaking in World War II after the Manhattan Project.

SHOW AND TELL

The first order of business of the Capital District Mineral Club on September 4, 2008 was Show and Tell, which is the

members showing and talking about the rocks, minerals and fossils they have collected, bought, bartered or 'don't ask' over the summer. Being the moderator, we didn't see all the rocks, minerals or fossils shown and asked several members for more information, but we didn't get all the exhibitors.

Kai Henderson exhibited and talked about some of the precious minerals she had acquired in Columbia. Of note was a faceted Tanzanite, which is the blue/purple variety of the mineral zoisite which was discovered in the Merelani Hills of Tanzania in 1967. It has strong trichroism, appearing alternately sapphire blue, violet or burgundy depending on crystal orientation.

Robert Ballard flashed some very nice Labradorite he dug up from the Panther Pond area. Labradorite is a mineral found in the rock Anorthosite which is a very common Adirondack rock, however only some of the Labradorite has the coveted flash, or schiller, so you have to turn or dig up a number of rocks to get the good stuff. Ask Robert how to do it. A number of club members went on the dig. Robert also showed some of the stalactites/stalagmites he has collected, bartered, purchased, etc.; the first one was aragonite, the next was quartz, next siderite and last celestite. You can remember which cave structure grows up and which structure grows down by the tale of a person stepping into an anthill, the mites go up and the tites go down.

Robert Kaufman also went on the Panther Pond dig and he displayed a cut Anorthosite rock which flashed some very interesting Labradorite crystals inside.

The Murray's had a poster of photographs with a story about going to California's Napa Valley to go to a wedding and seeing some very interesting geological features, one being an underground Lava Tube where the wedding dinner was held. They also drove to the western coast and saw where portions of the land are slipping into the Pacific Ocean. They had supper at a restaurant which was on the edge of the San Andreas Fault which, at that point, lay under a north-trending ocean bay called Tomales Bay. They stepped on the edge of the bay to be able to say they had stepped on a fault.

Curtis Breuer, who is a professional guide at Natural Stone Bridge and Caves in the Adirondacks, showed us, I estimated, a two and a half inch brown colored tourmaline crystal with either crystals of quartz or calcite in a groove in the side. He had seen the tourmaline on a wall in a cave he was exploring and went back to the Stone Bridge Cave headquarters to ask permission to collect it. Permission given, he and Robert Ballard went back to the cave and carefully (and nervously) collected it. The specimen is so unique that it is going to be donated to the New York State Science Museum's mineral collection.

Anne Woods showed the club members a very nice Aquamarine crystal.

Joanna Michalek had some unusual fossil coral organisms. Alexander Horowitz clearly explained some of the minerals he displayed.

By Bruce & Charlyn Murray

FIELD TRIPS COMING UP

Sept 28. Barrus Ledge, MA. Contact Richard Hartnett (518) 439 7243.

Oct 4. Tremolite trip to CT. Contact Gerry Pratt gerryp@taconic.net (518) 392 0453.

Oct 5. LaFarge Quarry in Ravena, NY. Contact Rich Stein at (518) 355 4423 or steinerite@nycap.rr.com. (SUNDAY)

Oct 11-12. Walworth Dig. Contact EFTA website at www.efta.biz/.

Oct 18-19. Fulton County Mineral Show. Contact Bob Hartig (518) 842 5948.

Details of LaFarge Trip

Rich Stein, Trip Leader (518) 355 4423
Cell phone (518) 330 1966 –day of trip

There will be a return trip to the LaFarge Quarry in Ravena on Sunday, October 5th. Collecting will be at the site. It was blasted for us on our last field trip there. The mound that was left has been mostly disbursed, and most of the big slabs adjoining have been lifted out. By October the rains should have cleaned off the mud and dust to make selection of the museum pieces easier.

Equipment – hard hat, safety glasses or goggles, steel toed boots, and safety vests are required. All are required. May substitute hard toed boots.

Tools – crack hammer, chisels, sledge, pry bar. Diamond saws are permitted, but should be used sparingly.

Facilities – none. Stop at quarry office before entering the quarry.

Food & drink –bring some of each.

Meeting time – 9:00 am

Meeting place – parking lot beside Family Dollar grocery - Dunkin Donut shop.

Route 9W - north end of Ravena, approximately 12 miles south of Albany.

Details on Walworth Quarry trip

NY Dolomite Products Quarry open house for mineral collecting at 1200 Atlantic Avenue, Walworth, NY (east of Rochester) on Oct 11 from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm and

on Oct 12 from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. Hard hats, steel toed boots, eye protection are required. Gas saws and drill are allowed. Supervised children are permitted. Must sign in at garage. Suggested time of arrival is 6:30 am as they have been known to let us in earlier than 7:00 am. Late arrivals are tolerated. All sign in at garage.

Details of Fulton County Mineral Show

Oct 18 – 19. Johnstown, NY. Show and sale held at the Johnstown Moose Lodge. Routes 30A and 69. Times 10 am to 5 pm. Adults \$2. and students \$1. with children under 12 free.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

JUL 26 – 27. TO GOUVERNEUR, NY by Gerry Pratt. Attending were Paul and Curtis Brewer, Ryan Sapienza, Robert Kaufman and Gerry Pratt. We met roadside just outside Gouverneur on Saturday and planned our exploration field trip stops. We came up with a number of promising road cuts and mine sites to fill the day. It included a the Gouverneur Talc Company's Harrisville mine (we were restricted to "collecting" minerals from what was available in buckets outside the mine office.

Minerals included talc, wollastonite and gypsum. While there we got directions to the Lake Bonaparte mine where there were piles of minerals (fluorite,

wollastonite, and gypsum, blue and white calcite with graphite nodules, actinolite and others. Road cuts included stops in Edwards, Talcville, Fine, and Fowler. We collected diopside, anthrophyllite, orange-white-and blue calcites, and pink microcline (one exceptional crystal was 2-3"). Several of us camped that night in Oxbow near Yellow Lake. Sunday started near Rossie, another in Dekalb, and our final stop at Pulpit Rock near Oxbow. Despite a few rain showers it was a good week end.

August 31 to Natural Stone Bridge and Caves reported by Curtis Breuer.

There were about a dozen members that attended the guided tour. We spent over two hours doing the tour and I think everyone learned a little something about the geology of the caves. After the tour, Bob Ballard and I did the Adventure Tour which was very enjoyable and we got to study the geology even more closely. I believe that most everyone had a good time and I am planning on next year's trip to be even better. Found a beautiful brown tourmaline crystal.

Hello Capital District Mineral Club

My name is Mary Millus and I am a Board member and the Newsletter editor for the Hudson Mohawk Professional Geologists Association (HMPGA). The HMPGA is an organization that sponsors speaking events and field trips related to all fields of geology and environmental science. It is a great organization for educational and networking opportunities.

I would like to introduce my self, and our Association to you and your Club. Please visit our website for further

information about us and our activities. We would love to have members of your Club attend our public speaking events, held the third Wednesday of each month (Sept – May).

Also, if you have an interest in providing a talk, please contact Tom Johnson, HMPGA President by phone or via email tjohnson@alphageoscience.com

Thank you and I hope to meet you sometime soon!

Mary Millus

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Random items of great importance!!

The Capital District Mineral Club will hold its semi annual dinner/auction meeting on December 4. Details will be in November newsletter. This is scheduled as a live auction. Make it happen, come early, bring money, and give some mineral/fossil a happy home.

Club T shirts are available, \$12.00; get one at our next meeting on November 6th.

Member, Bill Rocco sent in a newspaper clipping on big happenings in St. Lawrence County. A new (?) mapping technique is in use...it features a helicopter hovering and dangling electronic gear in a large net. They are searching for new zinc deposits over a grid area.

Thanks to Kia Henderson for her donation of sixteen mineral specimens for our raffles and/or "sand box" items.

EFTA Field Trips for October

October 11, 2008...Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central CT...CCC Quarry—Haddam, CT...Pegmatites with beryl, columbite, and schorl...Hours 8 am to 4pm ...no facilities. No need to contact club; map and details are at <http://www.1mscc.org/CCCQuarry.htm>
Note: Beaver Meadow Road is exit 8 off Route 9, not exit 7.

Oct 11,12,13...Boston Mineral Club...Eureka and Columbia Mines, Marion, KY...Eureka Mine for lilac to dark purple fluorite in sharp cubes and complex step-face crystals plus associated galena, smithsonite & calcite crystals. Columbia Mine for fluorite, galena, spahalerite, smithsonite, hydrozincite and bright multi-colored fluorescent minerals, plus optional visit to Ben Clement Mineral Museum. Contact Nate Martin at rockknote@gmail.com to register.

Oct 11 and 12...Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club...Walworth Dig...for fluorite, calcite dolomite, galena, and selenite. Sat. 7am to 2pm and Sunday from 7am to noon. Power tools allowed. Contact Bill at dirtman300@aol.com or (315 483 8061).

Oct 12, 2008...New Haven Mineral Club...Case Quarry in Portland, CT. Pegmatite Hours 8am-4pm. We do not require all persons other than New Haven Mineral Club members register either by (email, ground mail or phone), with the Chair at least two weeks prior to dates of field trips. Directions and other instructions will be provided at that time. Contact Art Doyle

(203) 795 4527 or email <adoyle@crofut.com>.

Oct ... Berks Mineralogical Society...Mount Pleasant Mills Quarry, Juniata County, PA...proposed. If approved, exact date and info to be posted at such time. Contact Dean Evans at insect@ptd.net. Registration is now open for any listed trip. Registration for any trip closed the Saturday before the planned trip. No exceptions.

Nov 1, 2008...Mid-Hudson gem and Mineral...St Clair, PA...Pennsylvania age (300 mya) fossil ferns in black shale coated in pyrophyllite. No age restrictions. No facilities. Contact Carolyn Reynard at <sunstone38hvc.rr.com> for directions and further instructions.

Nov 1, 2008...Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central CT...Case Quarries at Portland, CT. Pegmatites with beryl, garnet, columbite, and schorl...Hours 8am – 4pm. No facilities. No need to contact club; map and details are at <<http://www.1mscc.org/case.htm>>

FOOTNOTE

Anne Woods, our editor, asked me to publish the October issue of our club newsletter for personal reasons. Having nothing to do—I agreed. Therefore, all typos, misspellings, incorrect terminology are all my fault. I tried to limit my input or personal “spin” on the events recorded above.

George Gearhardt (518) 355 6070 or by email at <ggearhardt@nycap.rr.com>