

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

October 2010

October Meeting

Our next meeting is on Thursday October 7th in the New York State Museum. 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). Dr. Ed Landing will give a lecture on "The Oldest Animal".

Ugly Rock Contest

Please bring in what you would consider the ugliest rock you've ever seen. One entry per person. Prize to be awarded.

Membership Renewal

DUES are DUE!! Membership expired August 31, 2010 for those with that date on their membership cards. Your mailing address will also have 2010 or 8/10 on it. Please pay your dues as soon as possible, it makes our record keeping more manageable and assures your continued benefits. We also need a head count in order to pay our Federation insurance and dues. We are now requiring that everyone fill out a membership form every year to be turned in with your dues. So please print the attached form and bring or send in. This is for your protection as proof of payment and to assure that we have your correct membership information. And please PRINT CLEARLY so that we can record your info correctly.

-Bob Hartig

Board Meeting

A Board meeting was held on Aug. 31. We mainly had a discussion involving improving the membership process, treasurer and membership responsibilities. Also discussed was a change to the scholarship program. All were deferred to the bylaws change committee. One item that was moved on was the awarding of a special scholarship in memory of Lou Dushek to a young man that has done a lot for the club in the few years that he has been a member. The club took in around \$870 at the auction of Lou's collection. Lou was an educator of young people so we felt it fitting that we award \$500 of it to Curtis Breuer who is attending Union College in the

field of Geology. *-Bob Hartig*

Kid's Dig

Please remember the kids dig at the February show when out collecting. They don't have to be great quality. Things that you would not necessarily keep, kids may love. Colorful and shiny go best. 1-2 inch pieces are best, but we can break up if needed. 10-20 or more of the same thing are better than 1-2 of different things. Also fossils went well last year as did Rich's tumbled material and colorful chips in small vials. The club makes some money from this, but the real reason is to get kids interested in our hobby and our club. It also helps generate membership. Bring them to a meeting, or to the show (but please tell us ahead of time so that we can make labels) or call me. Thanks, Bob Hartig 842-5948

Field Trips

October 2. Barrus Farm - Goshen, Massachusetts. Trip leader Richard Hartnett can be contacted at 518-439-7243 for more information. indicolite + Rhodonite nearby maybe. Meeting place will be at the Old Creamery Grocery in Cummington, MA at 11:30 am.

October 23-24 Chester, Vermont. Trip will be lead by Bill Cotrofeld and Debra Hewson. Please call 802-375-6782 for more information. (bulk motel rooms, Saturday night joint dinner, and tour of Dorset Mountain Quarry)

November 13. Petrified Sea Gardens, Saratoga Springs, New York. Scenic photographic trip (no collecting allowed -this will be strictly enforced) to observe stromatolites in mass quantities. Trip leader Anne Woods can be contacted at 518-322-7932 or email at schmanie@albanyrockclub.com. Meeting place to be determined.

Mineral of the Month: Pyrite (FeS_2)
Pyrite, commonly referred to as fool's gold, is a mineral in the sulfide group that contains iron and has an iso-metric crystal structure. Similar to gold, but not having the high density, pyrite is metallic and is pale brass to

yellow in color. Pyrite can be found all over the world and notable world locations include Elba, Italy; China; Peru; Mexico; Spruce Ridge, California. In New York: Balmat, Alden, Schoharie, Chestertown, and others. Pyrite is commonly found associated with calcite, fluorite, galena, gold, quartz, and sphalerite and is used in industry as an ore of iron as well as in the production of sulfuric acid. However, it is rarely used due to other sources being easier to use and mine.

Please bring in a maximum of two specimens of pyrite to the next meeting. Awards will be given in the following categories: Best Single Crystal, Best Matrix Specimen, Best Association, Most Aesthetic, and Best Self Collected. Judging will take place during break; awards will be given at the end of the meeting. Please be sure that your specimen has a label including location, associations, and your name on the back. --Curtis Breuer

Lapidary Equipment For Sale

Former CDMC members Ken and Margaret Wieland will be moving to California. For health reasons, Ken will not be able to continue his lapidary hobby. He has left the equipment described below with Rich Stein, with the request that sale proceeds be donated to the club. If you are interested, please contact Rich at (518) 355 – 4423. If the pieces are not sold before December, they will be entered in the annual year – end auction. There are also six flats of minerals and cutting stock to be sold.

- (1). Vibrating Lap Highland Park Model HP – 20 ((20" diameter)) With bumper ring and lead weights to hold down slabs. Works !!!! Asking Price - \$175.
- (2). Cabochon Grinding Unit Beacon Star Includes motor and water pump. Asking price - \$75.
- (3). Diamond Saw with Power Feed Star Diamond Model ST – 14 Special stand needs one small wheel. Checked operation – works fine. Needs new blade. Asking Price - \$250 ((Blades are \$70 – 100 on computer))

Show Dates

October 16-17--Bristol, CT: 38th annual show; 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, raffle, free children's games and activities; contact David Korzendorfer, 208 Westledge Rd., West Simsbury, CT 06092, (860) 651-9980; e-mail: bristolgem@hotmail.com; Web site: www.bristolgem.org

October 16-17--Johnstown, NY: Show; Fulton County

Mineral Club; Moose Lodge, 109 S. Comrie Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, students and children free; contact Paul Cornell, (518) 725-7076; e-mail: pllenroc@frontiernet.net

October 23-24--Rochester, NY: 41st annual show; Rochester Academy of Science Mineral Section, Rochester Lapidary Society; Monroe County Fair & Expo Center, 2695 E. Henrietta Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children under 12 free; demonstrations, displays, kids' activities, minerals, beads, mineral carvings, crystals, fossils, jewelry, hourly drawing, raffle; e-mail: show@rasny.org; Web site: www.rasny.org/show

October 30-31--Freeport, NY: Show; Freeport Recreation Center; 130 E. Merrick Rd., Meadowbrook Pkwy. exit M9 west; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5.50, children under 12 free with adult; dealers, minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils, beads, hourly door prize, save 50 cents with this ad; contact Ralph Gose, (631) 271-8411; e-mail: kaleidoscopegemshows@yahoo.com

2010 EFTA Trip Schedule

October 2. Raindate Oct 3. Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society. St. Clair, PA to collect fern fossils. Family friendly. No facilities. Contact: sunstone33@verizon.net for details.

October 9 & 10, 2010. Walworth Quarry (Dolomite Products Co.) Open House, 1200 Atlantic Ave, Walworth, NY 14568 Safety Meeting Mandatory. sign in 6:45AM. Well-supervised children allowed. Must have hard hat (children may wear bicycle helmets), safety glasses, sturdy boots, long pants. Minerals to be found: dolomite, fluorite, selenite, sphalerite, celestine, gypsum, and clam, coral, crinoid, stromatolite fossils. Contact: Pat Chapman at batnpill@empacc.net

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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.