

# 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

## September 2009

### September Meeting

*Please come to the next meeting on September 3rd. Our September meeting is a Show and Tell. Please bring your favorite two-three specimens that you collected or bought, and be prepared to tell the club a bit about it (where it was collected, what it is, what it means to you, etc.). 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. As part of our September meeting, it has been a tradition in the past to have an 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

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

### Rock Swap/BBQ Review

*This year, the Mid-Hudson Gem and Mineral Society out of Poughkeepsie hosted the annual Rock Swap and BBQ. We all went to Copake Falls, NY to the Taconic State Park. Five members of the Capital club met there while Mid-Hudson was represented by about 9. We hope to double this amount next year. We had a merry ole time swapping and sharing food. Treasurer Bob took us on a small trip through ankle deep mud to check out the greenish-blue slag from long ago. We also learned a lot from club member Jo-anna who enlightened*

*us with her knowledge of old broken bottles which were scattered amongst the slag.*

### September 2009 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.*

*September 12. Trip Leader Curtis Breuer. Capital District Mineral Club Members, in order to make my trip on September 12 longer and contain more adventure, I have added a stop on the trip. The stop will be the same as my trip last year to the Natural Stone Bridge and Caves. I will lead the trip on our normally self-guided nature hike to see the Natural Stone Bridge, the largest cave entrance in the East and one of the largest Marble cave entrances in North America. Also on the tour will be potholes, gorges, and numerous other caves. This is a private location and normally costs \$13, however, since I am an employee I got our club a discount of \$8 per person. Again, since this is a private tourist attraction, there will be no rock and mineral collecting; this is strictly a geologic, informative field trip to see one of nature's wonders. Those who joined the trip last year found it interesting and informative. This year will be no different. Meeting time will be at 10am at the Cave itself (directions will be given out at club meeting or call for directions). After this geologic adventure, we will be heading to Ticonderoga (about 50 minutes) to collect at Lead/Chilson Hill, one of the first graphite mines in the United States in the 1840's. Permission has been granted and I have scouted out several spots on the property for people to dig at. Minerals to be*

found: Graphite, Quartz (strange rounded crystals in Calcite), Calcite, and Pyroxene (crystals rarely). Meeting location will be the McDonalds right before you get into Ticonderoga at the intersection of 74 and 9N. The meeting time for this trip will be at 2pm to allow people from the Stone Bridge to arrive and get something to eat. You may choose to go to only one of the locations, or both. Please contact me with your name, as well as which location you are going to. You can contact me with either my house phone 518-494-7538 or my cell phone 518-338-6266. Please leave a message with your information if you do not get me.

September 26. Minerva, NY. Minerva. Trip Leader: Gerry Pratt 518-392-0453; Meeting Place & Time: Stewarts, Rt.28 just east of North Creek -10am; Directions: Take the Northway to Exit 23, Warrensburg. Follow Rt. 9 north and turn onto Rt. 28. Distance, Exit 1 Northway to Stewarts, 80 miles, allow 1 ½ hours travel time. There is somewhat limited parking at the jump off point for the site so car pooling is recommended; Location: The collecting site is on the railroad built in 1943 to the Tawahus iron mine from North Creek. Getting to the site involves a one mile walk up the tracks. The main site is a cut through a wall of blue calcite; Items to collect: blue calcite, small but gemmy blue and green apatite, graphite, zircon (very small) and other stuff. Hopefully the Boreas River will be low. Hunting the water worn calcite at the rivers edge is often productive. Bring wadding shoes and a towel. Tools: Hammers, crack hammers, chisels, pry bars, digging tools, buckets to carry rocks out. Insect repellent. Since there is a long walk to the site, sharing heavy tools is a good idea.

October 3. Fonda, NY. Trip leader Jim Palmer will lead a field trip to Margaret Hastings to the club claim. Please call Jim for further information (more in October newsletter). 518-577-6119.

Field Trip Report: Batchellerville, NY

Saturday, July 25, 2009

Field Trip Leader: Richard Hartnett

If you missed this trip, you really missed something! We had a beautiful, mild, sunny

day with twenty-four members on the trip. I always like the drive as the scenery near Lake Sacandaga is really beautiful and collecting is always promising (not guaranteed).

The "gods of mineral collecting" were good to us, collectively, and many fine specimens of Beryl were found. A few specimens showed good Aquamarine color and they may be selected for either cabochons or faceted (for setting in jewelry) by their owners. Art Collins found many very nice specimens of Beryl. Kevin and Kyle Baskin found the monster of the day - a 20 pound Beryl! I didn't see everyone's haul but most everyone left with Beryl to add to their collections.

Several pieces of Uraninite were identified, thanks to Bob Ballard, who brought along his Geiger counter. Of course Rose and Smokey Quartz, Feldspar, and Biotite and Muscovite Mica "books" were plentiful, so new collectors or those new to the site were intrigued by the sheer presence of such mineralization.

What was really nice to see were several members who were on their first collecting trip with the Club and some of them had been members for years, but other commitments made it difficult to get away when we had field trips.

Despite the logistics of parking, deciding which vehicles could make the trek up the hill, and spacing people out on site, we had a pretty successful day. Collecting began at roughly 10:30 am and ended about 3:30 pm. Few of nature's nasty biting nuisances (mosquitoes and black flies) were present, but a few three cornered stinging flies showed up - not enough to really distract us.

I have conveyed to the property owner our appreciation for the permission to collect on his land and hope we can schedule another trip before too long.

Members on the trip were: Mark Kilmer, Kristina Akers, Art Collins, Curtis and Paul Breuer, Anne Woods, Alex, Johanna, and Charles Horowitz, Max Fischer, Anna Reitz, William Perry, Brian Harper, Father Mike Fritz, Jane Kaplan, Ed and E.J. Heubel, Kevin and Kyle Baskin, Bob Ballard, Chris Reed,

April DeYoung, Bob Hartig, and Richard Hartnett.

## 2010 Show Announcement

February 20 & 21, 2010 from 10AM to 5 PM in Albany, New York. The 17th Annual James Campbell Memorial "Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale" will be co-sponsored by the New York State Academy of Mineralogy and the Capital District Mineral Club. It will be held on the 4th floor of the New York State Museum at the Empire State Plaza on Madison Avenue in Albany, New York. The admission of \$6.00 will cover both the mineral show and the New York State Flower Show which will be held on the first floor of the Museum at the same time. The proceeds of the mineral portion of the show will help Mike to purchase new minerals to display in the museum for us to see. Free parking is available at designated parking lots. The show features over twenty mineral and fossil dealers, as well as guided museum tours, with staff on hand to identify minerals or fossils you may have collected. For more information contact Michael Hawkins, Geology Collections Manager at the New York State Geological Survey at (518) 486 2011; mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov.

## Future Mineral Shows

September 12-13. New Milford, CT: 59th annual show; Danbury Mineralogical Society; New Milford High School, Danbury Rd.; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-4:30; adults \$4.50, seniors and full-time students with ID \$3, kids under 12 and scouts in uniform free; dealers, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, gold panning, exhibits, grab bags; contact Pat Hackett, (860) 355-9799; e-mail: prhackett@charter.net; Web site: www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org

September 12-13. Pownal, VT: Show; Northern Berkshire Mineral Club; American Legion Post #90, Rte. 7; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, children under 12 free with adult, group rates; minerals, gems, jewelry, children's fish pond, door prizes; contact Cindy Lee Hancock, 45 Spring St., Apt. 103, North Adams, MA 01247, (413) 664-4115

September 19-20. Rhinebeck, NY: 40th annual show and sale, "The Rocks of the Hudson Valley"; Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rte. 9; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3; adults \$5, seniors \$4, students \$2, Scouts

in uniform and children 12 and under free with adult; more than 30 dealers, lapidary demonstrations, minerals, gems, jewelry, free rocks for kids, fossils, beads, tools, books, fluorescent minerals, exhibits, lapidary rough, wire wrapped gems, wholesaler, Earth Science Scavenger Hunt, New York State Museum and Vassar College Museum of Geology exhibits; contact Carolyn Reynard, (845) 471-1224; Web site: www.geocities.com/nyrockhounds

September 26-27. Franklin, NJ: 53rd annual show, "Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show"; Franklin Mineral Museum; Franklin School, Washington Ave.; Sat. 7:30-6, Sun. 9-5; adults \$7, children \$4; contact Lee Lowell, (973) 827-6671; e-mail: fmm1954@earthlink.net

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/



President Anne Woods pushing Secretary Curtis Breuer on swing whilst Curtis ponders a beryl crystal from Gilsum, NH. Photographed by Treasurer Robert Stitham at the annual Rock Swap and BBQ hosted this year by the Mid-Hudson Gem and Mineral Society in Copake Falls, NY.

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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.