

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 2006

Next Meeting

Please come to the next meeting on September 7th.. Our September meeting is a Show and Tell. Please bring your favorite two specimens that you collected or bought, and be prepared to tell the club a bit about it (where it was collected, what it is, 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.

September 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.

1. September 9. Cascade Lake Sightseeing Trip, NY. Meeting Place: Cascade Lakes Day Use Area. Time 10:30 am. Directions: I-87 to Exit 30. Rt 9 to Rt 73. The Cascade Lakes park is 21 miles from Exit 30. You are getting close when you get to the lower cascade lake, but the entry road, on the left, is not marked. The only clue is a "driveway" road sign. If you see the "Leaving Keen" sign you have gone too far. Turn around and take the steeply sloping drive about ¼ mile back. Park among the picnic tables. Distance: 125 miles from Albany. Allow 2 ½ hours drive time. Bring your camera and your rock identification book.

The base of the Cascade Falls is up a steep, rocky trail from the parking lot. The falls are rather impressive. It must have been a rough spring above the falls as mother nature has trashed the site with many tree trunks. We will be searching for dark green diopside, massive or up to ½ inch crystals, magnetite, hematite and hornblende.

Labradorite, some with a good schiller, is found in the area. The pieces at the base of the falls are somewhat water worn, having tumbled down the falls. We will NOT be climbing the falls to look for the source as this is too dangerous.

Other Side Trips Included: Rt 73 in the Keene valley is one of the most scenic roads in the area. We will stop at several turnouts on the return trip. There are several other collecting spots in the area we may visit. If the weather is warm, we can check out the falls and look for labradorite below the falls in the Niagara Brook, so

bring wading stuff. Bring digging tools, and hammer and chisel just in case.

2. September 16. St. Clair, PA. Participants will meet on site at 10am. We will do a full day of collecting. Participants should arrive in town the day before since trip time is estimated between 4.5-5 hours from the Albany area. Anne will provide names of local hotels in Pottsville (3 miles down the road) via email. It is recognized that most of the people will want to stay up there for two nights. Trip leader Anne Woods can be reached at schmanie@albanyrockclub.com to secure a spot. Or call 518-322-7932 after 9pm. Items to collect are yellow/white fossil fern, leaves, and plant parts on black shale. Expect to get dirty, as coal dust is in abundance at the site (wear old clothes). The fossils are from the Llewellyn Formation (300 mya, Pennsylvanian Period). The ferns most commonly found are *Alethopteris*, *Neuropteris*, and *Pecopteris*. Samples of the fern fossils available will be present for viewing at the September meeting.

3. September 30. Margaret Hastings Herkimer Diamonds, Fonda, NY. Time: 10am. Meeting place: icecream stand near Fonda Raceway, Fonda, NY (off I-90 Fonda, NY exit). Field Trip Leader: Jim Palmer 399-9090. Materials to collect: herkimer diamonds. Bring rock breaking equipment (sledgehammer, chisels, hammer, screens, bugspray, sunscreen.

Field Trip Report

Gold Panning on the Wild Ammonoosuc River, Trip Report from August 5.

The Wild Ammonoosuc is a good four hour drive from Albany. While this can be done as a day trip, it makes for a very long day so the trip was planned as a camp out.

I arrived at the Twin Rivers Campground late Friday afternoon. With a few hours of daylight left, I got out the gold pan and waded across a river which was rather higher than I had remembered it had been on the last trip. The trick for finding gold is to ask yourself "If I were a gold flake, where would I settle out?" Several pans at what I hoped were gold traps yielded one small flake.

By 9am the next morning, Jerry and kids, Bob, Anne, Martha, Steve and I set out. We first checked out the Covered Bridge and falls at Swiftwater. This was very scenic, but no prospecting was allowed

there, so we moved on [I guess they are afraid some crazy rockhound would dynamite the falls looking for gold].

The gold panning area was near the White Mountain National Forrest. The stream splits there into a high water channel with a huge boulderfield, kinda like the place on the Mohawk we go in the spring. Since some of the people had never panned, I first did a demonstration to make sure everyone knew how to pan correctly. We found plenty of garnet but no gold.

Jerry and kids had to leave, so hoping to prove to the other people there was gold in the river, I took the rest of us to the spot we were last year. In the campground is a map of the river. The map states the biggest nugget, ½ ounce, was found 1 mile below the Ammonoosuc Fish and Game Club and a popular site to pan is “split rock” Split rock is an easy landmark to find. About 1.2 miles up stream of the campground is a wide place in the road. If you pull off there and look directly across the stream, you see two huge rocks that form a shallow, offset V. Next time I would like a better look at that rock, it looked like a good gold trap.

The area I know about is ½ mile up stream of split rock. The river was higher than before. Steve and I are the only ones to wade over. Note: frisbeeing a gold pan across a swift river is not a good idea. Steve and I washed cracks in the rock that had been exposed to the spring floods. Steve split off a rock, and to demonstrate I knew what was going on, I washed the mud off the rock and panned a good sized flake. Enough gold was found that everyone got a few flakes but no one got rich.

I guess the bottom line is: while there is gold to be found, it is not easy. The easy spots on the roadside have been panned out. To find gold you must cross the river and pan a fair amount of mud.

Robert Ballad

Rock and Gem Shows

September 2-3. Augusta, ME. 17th annual show; Kennebec Rocks & Minerals Club; National Guard Armory, Western Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact KRMC, 873-6270.

September 9-10. New Milford, CT. 56th annual show; Danbury Mineralogical Society; New Milford High School, Danbury Rd.; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, seniors and full-time students with ID's \$3, kids under 12 and scouts in uniform free; Contact Pat Hackett, (860) 355-9799; e-mail: prhackett@charter.net; Web site: www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org.

September 9-10. North Adams, MA. Show; Northern Berkshire Mineral Club; VFW Hall, Rte. 2; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, children under 12 free with adult; Contact Cindy Lee Hancock, 45 Spring St., Apt. 103, North Adams, MA 02147, (413) 664-4115.

September 16-17. Harrisburg, PA. 41st annual show; Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club; Central Dauphin Middle School, Locust Ln. and S. Houcks Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children 12 and under free; Contact Ted Keck, (717) 474-0112; Web site: www.rockandmineral.org.

September 23-24. Albany, NH. Show and field trip; Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Albany Town Hall; show Sat., Contact Jonathan

Herndon, P.O. Box 520, Center Ossipee, NH 03814-0520. September 23-24. Franklin, NJ. 50th annual show; Franklin Mineral Museum; Franklin School, Washington Ave.; Contact Lee Lowell, (973) 827-6671; e-mail: fmm1954@earthlink.net.

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.

November 10-11. Pittsburgh, PA. Fair & Balanced Promotions;

Semiannual show; Washington County Fairgrounds, I-79N exit 40, I-79S exit 41; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Contact F.M. Zambrotto, (304) 825-6845.

November 24-26. Hamburg, NY. Show, "Gemstreet USA"; Fairgrounds at Hamburg, 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; Fri. 11-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Contact Jane Strieter Smith, Strieter Productions Inc., P.O. Box 770680, Lakewood, OH 44107; e-mail: spi@stratos.net; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.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.

Sept. 2. PESA, PA, Monroe Co. Calcite, dolomite, limonite, fossils. 8-11 AM Working quarry rules. 18 and older. No facilities. Contact Merrill Dickinson +1 (610) 473-9973

Sept. 9. Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central CT. Clark Hill Quarries, E. Hampton, CT. Simple pegmatite minerals plus schorl, beryl, garnet, apatite, columbite, uranium minerals, zircon, excellent euhedral muscovite crystals. Small abandoned quarries in state forest, no facilities. No limit, see http://www.lmscc.org/clark_hill.htm for rules, club has permit.

Sept. 9-10. Worcester Mineral Club. VAG Asbestos quarry, Eden Mills VT. For Vesuvianite, Grossularite, Artinite, Magaetite, Serpentine & others. No facilities. Contact Larry at Delsjohn@aol.com for details.

Sept. 24. The Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hurricane Mtn., Bartlett, NH. Smoky quartz, microcline, amethyst, zircon, and arfvedsenite crystals.

Sept. 29. Orange County Mineral Society. Montique, NJ. Collect Quartz xls and small clusters, Limited number of people can attend. This time of the year you can also enjoy the fall colors. Contact for details call George Gardianos at gggard@otimum.net

Sept. 30. Berks Mineral Society. Panning for Gold in Southern Lancaster Co. First 20 people to register (717)933-5124

Sept. 30. MLSRV. NJ, Warren Co. Calcite, zircon, micas. 9AM-12PM. Working quarry rules. 18 and older. No facilities. EFMLS card required. Contact Dave Rieur +1 (908) 938-5525 or crystalcutz@yahoo.com

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 glaucnite5@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 glaucnite5@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 glaucnite5@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 glaucnite5@yahoo.com

yahoo.com for details.

Bumpus 2006: Collecting Memories

Seeing the first mineral discoveries for the day, a familiar collector name, real "mineral ice", and helping a fellow collector load his treasure. These are events best remembered from our first visit into this famous location.

Shortly after our arrival, there was quite an amount of activity and a crowd gathered around a collector who had just come down from above the first dump. Much to our surprise, he had a "big-as-your-head" boulder showing at least two beautiful mineral groupings, a quarter-sized Almandine garnet and an equally as large euhedral Schorl crystal.

I asked permission for a photo of him and his prize to which he obliged. Seeing his Symposium name tag, there was something familiar about Peter Cristofono. Three days later as I checked my favorite Internet database, his identity was revealed.

Peter is a member of Boston Mineral Club. As a contributor to an Internet mineral website, he has presented photos of collected mineral species from all over New England. I had been viewing his collected minerals for a very long time. He managed to collect eight minerals and a lot of great photos. (See what Pete collected at Bumpus, go to <http://www.mindat.org>. Search, "Bumpus Mine" then "click" mineral photos.)

While touring the lower mine area, those of us who believed severe winter had spared Maine, got a surprise. A long thick mass of glistening white mineral reflected afternoon sun back into our eyes. At least mine car length and as thick as one famous Bumpus beryl crystal, a left over patch of cold ice blocked a "backdoor" entrance to the lower mine. Until I touched the frozen mass, I thought it was a huge layer of white quartz. Mineral ice in May, protected by rock overburden, a photo opportunity.

During our walk, one Symposium visitor had eyed-up a very large chunk of quartz, a pristine white mass with just a tinge of rose coloring. His female companion was afraid he would get hurt loading his up his wheelbarrow (A collecting tool of conveyance). Assessing the situation, and determining two could safety handle the job; I helped load his prize into the barrow bucket.

Collecting was disappointing for us this trip. Our expectations for potential "in hand" minerals were not realized. For the day I collected some perthite with included green mangano apatites from the dumps. Linda had found some quartz tinted with manganese impurity that gave it a rosy color. But memories and photos remain.

It is important to remember that events and experiences of any trip are their own rewards. Success should not be measured by material collected. Memories collected on a field trip may provide just as much pleasure. Besides opportunity to collect at a new location we also had no reason to complain about weather for the day.

Perhaps we will have better luck at Bumpus another year.

Don Kauffman

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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.

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