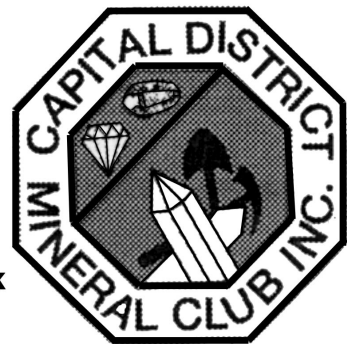


THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



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 2005

September Program

The next meeting will be on September 8th. Please note that for this time only, the September meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month because of Labor Day weekend. The program is a 'show and tell'. Please bring your rocks, minerals, fossils, etc. that you have collected or bought over the summer and be prepared to give a short 2 minute presentation on what you have found. Also please remember to bring the ugliest rock you have ever found for participation in the 'ugly rock contest'.

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.

September 24, 2005. Hooper Garnet Mine. Meet at Exit 23 Warrensburg, NY on the Northway at the McDonalds at 10am. Field trip leader Gerry Boileau can be contacted at: 518-482-0511 to secure a spot. No food, water or comfort facilities available at the site. Materials to collect are garnet crystals and pieces of garnet. Some garnets are loose in the rock. Bug spray should be brought just in case.

September 17 or October 1, 2005. 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. Rich will provide names of local hotels in Pottsville (3 miles down the road) via phone (or I can post them on the website) after his next trip up there. He expects that most people will want to stay up there for two nights. Trip leader Richard Stein can be reached at 518-355-4923 to secure a spot. Items to collect are fossil fern and plant parts. These ferns are famous for having a whitish color to them which makes them stick out on the rock. The actual date of the trip will be voted on at the September club meeting.

August Field Trip Review

August 20, 2005. Hooper Garnet Mine. was cancelled due to rain and has been rescheduled for September 24th.

August 27, 2005. Wild Ammonoosuc River. Leaders Jim Palmer and Bob Ballard led this trip to search for gold. We can truthfully say that some gold and very small garnet crystals were found on this trip. As to weather or not you can see it, well, that's another story. Fieldtrip participants included: Anne Woods, Bob Stitham, and Bob Kauffman. The weather was sunny and warm for the duration of the collecting time in the stream. We worked as a group to get the soil out of the rocks and then panned for it in the stream. Jim and Bob have a special method. Perhaps if you are nice to them, they will teach it to you. Since all participants had opted ahead of time to not drive home that evening, we all then headed for our campsite across the street, had a cookout, chatted around the fire, and then retired to our tents for the evening. Surprisingly, there were no bugs in the campsite, and fun was had by all.

Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Field Trip Itinerary

Contact Bob Hartig if you wish to attend at:
518-842-5948

Sept. 10, 2005. Fulton County. Tentative. Crystal Grove, St. Johnsville, NY. Herkimer Diamonds & calcite xls. Possible swap and dig. Camping available. See <<http://www.crystalgrove.com>> for more info. \$7 a day dig fee.

Sept. 25, 2005. Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hurricane Mountain, Bartlett, NH.- smoky quartz, feldspar, amethyst, zircon, arfvedsonite (one of the few U.S. locations) Meet at Scenic Rest Area-Intervale, NH at 8AM.

Oct. 2, 2005. Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Moat Mountain, Albany, NH- Smoky quartz, microcline, danalite, fluorite, topaz. Meet at National Forest Mineral Parking area for Moat Mtn. at 8AM directions (including name & phone number of trip leader) will be posted on the SVG&M club website.

September 2005 Show Announcements

August 27-28 - Freeport (Long Island), NY. Annual summer show; Village of Freeport Recreation and Parks Dept.; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, children under 12 free with parent; contact J. Anderson, P.O. Box 551, N. Bellmore, NY 11710,

(516) 781-8410.

September 10-11 - New Milford, CT. 55th annual show; Danbury Mineralogical Society; New Milford High School, Danbury Rd.; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, seniors, full-time students with ID, and kids 5 and over \$2.50, kids under 5 and scouts in uniform free; contact Pat Hackett, 1 Lakeview Rd., New Milford, CT 06776; e-mail: prhackett@vcharter.net; Web site: www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org.

September 10-11 - 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., North Adams, MA 01247, (413) 664-4115.

September 17-18 — Harrisburg, PA. Show; Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club; Zembo Shrine Auditorium, 3rd St. and Division St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children 12 and under free; contact Ted Keck, (717) 474-0112; Web site: www.rockandmineral.org.

September 24 - Albany, NH. Annual show; Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Albany Town Hall, Ret. 16; Sat. 9-5; admission \$2; cocontact Jonathan Herndon, P.O. Box 520, Center Ossipee, NH 03814-0520.

September 24 - Macungie, PA. Show; Discount Card Club of America; Macungie Memorial Park; Sat. 9-3; contact Ralph Renninger, P.O. Box 251, Emmaus, PA 18049, 888-285-2781; e-mail: r.renninger@discountcardclub.net.

September 24-25 - Franklin, NJ. 49th annual show; Franklin Mineral Museum; Franklin School, Washington Ave.; contact Lee Lowell, (973) 827-6671; e-mail: fmm1954@earthlink.net.

October 1 - Macungie, PA. Semi-annual show, "PESA Autumn Mineralfest" Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association; Macungie Memorial Park Bldg., Rte. 100; Sat. 8:30-3; adults \$2, children under 12 free; contact Ed Richards, 431 Maryann Dr., Alburtis, PA 18011; e-mail: mineralfest@aol.com.

Bringing Kids Into Rockhounding Early

June 17, 2005

Dear Rockhound,

Greetings. This mineral club has been a part of my life since the mid 1960s, so it's time our family joined. My mother is Mary Dushek, the designer of your mineral club insignia. It was during that time period in the 60s that your club was influential in getting garnet as the N.Y. State Mineral. Dad, Louis J. Dushek was an active field trip leader, etc.

Once, someone showed mom & dad a small jar of Herkimer Diamonds and then my sister's life and mine changed. Instead of just going fishing with a picnic lunch on weekends we would go find minerals, rocks, mosquitos, nature, & grown ups who applauded our getting dirty and encouraged us when we were hot and tired. The adults treated Christine and me like we were rockhound peers. Of course during the school week we soon realized our peers thought we had rocks in our heads.

Our summer vacations were planned according to a mineral book and maps that would connect the mineral locations. Canada had the wilderness, fishing, big mosquitos, and rocks during my childhood. Thunder Bay Amethyst was a big deal when I was a teenager! My birthstone was all over the place! Rough camping and dirt road trails led to the joys and complaining of my childhood vacations. Our house had rocks & minerals in really every room, cellar, garage, flower garden, and leaning against trees. A rock hammer was under the car seat with the rag to check oil.

Mom has now moved to a senior residence. We moved a floor to ceiling rock display with her! And again, there are minerals - now in every room and memories of the rock finding trips with friends. Thank you for the support you give to your charter members like mom, Ruth Schmiqt, etc. We have taken mom to find Herkimer Diamonds twice since Dad passed away in 2001. We have gone to Crystal Grove and will go again this summer.

Two of my coworkers at Chazy School (and again with their families) have ventured into rockhounding with us there. I have rocks in my room to pique my reading students' interest. (Q- quartz, M-magnetite, with a magnet, C-calcite).

We would like to take Mom to the club, Fonda, Herkimer Diamond site but don't know how

to find it. My three new grown children have memories of fishing and rockhounding trips with grandma and grandpa.

If you could send me information of rock finds, with directions, we would like to start more adventures. Garnet, pyrite crystals, "pretty" minerals will get the interest sparked with the family. I know what I'm getting into! The rest of the family is about to find out how good these adventures are for them!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol (Dushek) LaFlesh

P.S. When I was a teen I couldn't wait until I was grown up. I wouldn't have to be dragged along on anymore rock trips. Now, I look at Mom's display cases and wish I knew which rock was from where and its name. And of course, I dragged my kids and our Czech exchange student to go hammer out Herkimer Diamonds!



Cartoons by: 1998
Erston Barnhart
Rock Buster News
Central PA Rock & Mineral Club

Get well wishes are sent out to Amy Sternstein who injured her foot at the West Springfield Show this past month.



Capital District Mineral Club
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Newletter Staff:

Anne M. Woods <schmanie@albanyrockclub.com>
Barbara Gearhardt
George Gearhardt
Don Kauffman

Website:

<www.albanyrockclub.com>

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.