



ROCK PICKENS

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB Date: October 2016

October 2016

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 5th, 6:00 PM at the Canton Library. Pot luck dinner!

President: William deLorraine

Vice President: Lisa Garlough

Secretary: Joanna deLorraine

Treasurer: Ashley Meade

Show Chairperson: Gary Garlough

Newsletter Editor: Bill deLorraine

Webmaster: Glenn Simonelli

Club Members

Please pay your annual dues; many of us did not catch up annual dues at the show.

Please mail dues to:
Ashley Meade, Treasurer
3715 CR 14
Madrid, NY 13660

Please ensure that we have your current e-mail address!

We strive to send all newsletters by e-mail

Single Membership: \$10.00; Family Membership: (Family members under the same roof at the same mailing address): \$20.00

Contact information:

315-287-4652 or
wdellie@gmail.com

THE CLUB'S WEBSITE:

www.stLawrencecountymineralclub.org



Gem & Mineral Shows

October 22-23 – Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show and Sale, sponsored by Rochester Lapidary Society,
<http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/show/index.htm>

Oct 8-9 Walworth – Sat. 7-2, Sun. 7-noon.
1200 Atlantic Ave Walworth NY 14568
[entrance on Tiffany Rd. about 1,000 feet north of Atlantic Ave. & Canandaigua RD]
<http://dolomitegroup.com/>

What's to be found: Minerals - dolomite, fluorite, selenite, sphalerite, celestine, gypsum; Fossils - stromatolite, coral, crinoid and clam (bivalves) Plus - Glacial Polish
Safety Meeting Mandatory – sign in 6:45 AM
PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] Needed – Hard Hat, Bicycle Helmet for young people, steel toed/sturdy shoes, safety glasses, long sleeved shirts & pants.

Minutes from the August Meeting.

15 members attended the August meeting. The meeting came to order at 6:50 after our monthly pot luck dinner. It was a cozy meeting in a smaller room at the library, as our normal spot was closed for asbestos abatement. Bill passed around "Thank You" cards for members to sign that will be mailed to John Reed -Pepsi, for the banner at the show and Butch, manager of Price Chopper in Canton for the egg cartons. A big thank you also to Mr. Bill Cotrofeld for his donation to



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the club of egg cartons. Bill noted what a great help and pleasure it was to have John Taillon, Larry Olmstead, and Bob Brothers at the Canton pavilion. We looked at our Mineral of the Month "show and tell" specimens. Bill brought a large black tourmaline from the Powers Farm; Barb Decker also brought some tourmalines.

Joanna read the minutes from the previous meeting. There was no Treasurer's report. Bill said we did very well at our new show venue at the Canton pavilion. There was much more advance publicity in part necessitated by the move to new location and change in advertising chair. There were over 1,000 attending our show, 1,200 counting Friday night's activities. Bill distributed a report of monies taken in and expensed for our show along with a graphic representation of same over the past several years. There were more expenses this year as we had to pay for tables. Unfortunately, some of these were not even used because of last-minute vendor drop outs or outright no shows. Next year's show dates are August 26th and 27th. It will always be the 4th weekend in August going forward. There was a conflict with the Lebanon, Pa show this year so a few of our normal vendors were not in attendance, but we also had a few new vendors this year. There was some confusion over dogs not being allowed at our show. We will have more signage next year on our website, fliers, and entrance door that dogs are not allowed. One person mentioned that people may be allergic to residue on the egg cartons from the mineral kits for kids, so we will never have used ones, only new.

We will respond to all pre-registrants next year; the agreement will specify deposit

amount and require it by a specific date. We expect these provisions will substantially reduce the vendor "no-show" phenomena experienced this year. Bill noted the special help we received at the show from Mike Rygel and his college students, helping to set up. They were life savers, and Roberta Greene from SUNY Potsdam was a tremendous help with set up, registration table, and clean up. Special thanks to Mark Kucera for all of his assistance. He was there to final end helping in every way possible, A HUGE thank you to you Mark. Dave Millis also, thank you for helping us set up the tables on Friday and as always being there to teach the classes. We are still looking for committee chairs for advertising, speakers for our meetings. It would be great to have a field trip calendar for 2017. The show signs were turned in. Preliminary count suggests we are missing ~20 although some may be "buried" in the storage bin. Christmas Dinner Party date and place to be announced at the next meeting.



Bill with large Tourmaline crystal from Bower Power's farm at our last "show and tell". Picture by Barb Decker



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Message From the Prez

Hello fellow collectors and rockhounds. I would like to take a few words here to thank Fred Haynes and the Wayne County club for putting together a terrific field trip a couple of weeks ago and for extending an invitation to our club to join them. Several of us did meet up with Fred and the Wayne County club and we had fun collecting at several stops including the Valentine Mine at Harrisville, the Gardenscape Quarry on the Seavey Road outside of Gouverneur, and the Benson Mines dumps at Star Lake.

Some new information to pass on to you. In talking with George Persson, the grounds person and caretaker at Benson Mines property, I asked him about the possibility of bringing equipment in to turn over some of the rock piles so as to expose new, fresh material for collectors, mineral kits bulk samples, and college students. He was enthusiastic about doing just that and he volunteered to bring in his own large backhoe to do just that and at very minimal cost. I was thinking at the time of turning over the "pegmatite pile" but other areas might well be productive as well.

The other collecting locale near Gouverneur, the Gardenscape quarry on the Seavey road, I had approached with a certain degree of skepticism because I knew that it was being mined for high purity calcium white marble used mostly for agricultural lime and decorative stone. What could one possibly find in there? I'd been there before and found exactly that, although I knew that outliers of Potsdam Sandstone had produced some quartz crystals (rare) so I went along just to "check 'er out". Upon arrival in the pit we were treated to piles of freshly broken rock, mostly white marble. Parts of the talus apron though, were stained brown, signifying that those areas of marble had been dolomitized, that is, changed from calcium-rich to magnesium-rich, marble. At the time all I knew was that it meant that a lot of water, or hydrothermal fluid, had to have passed through the brown-stained areas so maybe, just maybe, there was hope of finding some crystals therein.

Sure enough! Shortly after clambering up onto the pile I spotted vugs with calcite crystals and rarely some bladed barites. Yippee! How glad I was I went to that "bland old quarry". As New York Lottery is fond of saying "Hey, you never know".

What I found out later interests me most at least from a scientific standpoint. It came as a result of a talk given by Dr. Bruce Selleck of Colgate University. Bruce grew up around the Pierrepont area on a farm on Selleck's road (sound familiar)? He grew up picking up rocks and minerals in the Pierrepont area and is now professor of geology at Colgate. But I digress... Right after the Wayne County field trip stop at Gardenscape quarry, Seavey Road where the calcite crystals occurred in dolomitized enclaves in calcitic marble, Dr. Selleck gave a talk on just that very subject, dolomitization in the Grenville! Talk about serendipity. I won't belabor you with the exact chemistry involved, but the story goes something like this.

The brown-stained enclaves in the white marble mark volumes of rock that have become dolomitized, that is, changed from calcium-rich to magnesium-rich, marbles. In that process, much water passes through the rock, substituting magnesium in the carbonate mineral that was calcite while removing calcium from the mineral, dissolving it into the watery hydrothermal fluid. Now in that process of conversion from calcite to dolomite, there is a volume reduction, hence the formation of vugs and openings in the rock. What happens to the calcium dissolved in the watery solution? It gets precipitated as calcite crystals in the vugs!

Well, that's my story/theory and I'm sticking with it; fun to think about at any rate.

One last item I wanted to mention here is the "Mineral of the Month". I would like feedback on the following ideas. Thus far the "Mineral of the Month" has been more or less a random "pick and choose" affair, right? It's been hard to predict which mineral is next in line, and so on. And I bring elements of my collection to "show and tell". So here is something to try to expand the scope, involve more membership participation and even the mineralogical landscape. In our show fliers there is a column entitled "Noteworthy Minerals of St. Lawrence County". Why not change this to "Noteworthy Minerals of The NW Adirondacks"? We could add many more minerals to the list that way. We could start with the first mineral on the list for the first new Mineral of the Month then for each succeeding month we would select the next mineral in the list. It would be a great addition if others would send in articles that they've researched or photos of minerals or personal collecting stories of their own for inclusion in the newsletter. I would like to hear your thoughts please!