

FIELD TRIP REPORT – Marble Mine

Dion Stewart, dstewart29@gsu.edu



Field trips are almost universally “fun”, and with some 57 participants from three clubs (the Cobb County Gem Mineral Society, the Georgia Mineral Society, and the Rome Mineral Society), we had a great time. The fun started early for this trip as there were giveaways at the sign-in. One “cabber” after signing the waiver was the first to identify a rock as “unakite” and he got both a nice slab and the 5” × 5” rock. The second giveaway was to a member from the Rome club who identified a “tanzanite” in a ring that was the exact size for her hand. We also had some of the best fake minerals that are being sold out of Bangkok to view and laugh about. At 10:15 we left the meeting location and headed off to the Marble Mine, arriving in a pouring rainstorm.



About ten of the participants said “we don’t mind getting wet” so we took off to look for the banded marble, which occurs in colors from white, gold, green, pink and blue. I took my phone with me “to give directions to late arrivals who missed the group’s departure”, but the phone got soaked and stop working. So, the next day I sent out apology notes to all who arrive late because they got “no answer when they called the late arrival number”. One late group sent a reply email saying they still had lots of fun eating pie and ice cream at the Panorama Orchard Farm Market that was the 10:00 am meeting place. By 11:45 the rain had ended, and the sky turned nice and blue.

Everyone found lots of beautiful, banded marble pieces. As you can see there were piles and piles of marble pulled from the mine and stacked in row after row along the mine road. Climbing from pile to pile was bit treacherous and it was easy to slip and slide. One person yelled “I found a cell phone”, which was immediately claim by someone who thought they had lost it forever as it had slipped from their rear pocket when the slid down one of the piles. One participant took the largest specimen of the day; a banded three sided “column” that was 1.5’ tall × 1.5’ across, weighing well over 100 pounds, saying it was going to be the “center piece” for his collection of yard rocks. All in all, a great trip... some even said that the “best time” was the 45 minutes of collecting during the rainstorm... NOT ME.