

ROCK HOUNDING 25 June, 2022

Four of the Teen Naturalists went with professional geologist Darryl McFarlane, geologist and driver Gary Greer and naturalist leader Anne Robertson to a Feldspar mine in the woods near Verona to find, mine, and sample the components of granite which are Quartz, Hornblende, and Feldspar. Each naturalist took home a sample of each of these minerals. We also found Smoky Quartz, Iron-Stained Quartz and Gneiss at this location.

The Teens got to experience diverse ways of finding and mining different minerals through the forest and at the side of the road. We found Mica alongside the road where it is said a cart transporting Mica tipped over. Each naturalist got a sample and learned about the cleavage [layering] of the Mica.

After all that the Teens went to geologist Darryl's extraordinary rock collection. Here we first viewed the beautiful rock collection of Ed Fletcher and then after Darryl showed us a special rock, scapolite (which fluoresces yellow with long wave light), we were invited to take samples of six key specimens from the huge piles of rocks and minerals. Then we were given the opportunity to choose six more samples all to keep for ourselves. Specimens were collected in an egg box and photographed so correct identifications were ensured.

A special thanks to everyone involved in making this happen, I for one learned a lot and had fun too.

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Abigail Pantrey