

Stone Goddess Rock Shop

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Lora Robins Gallery

University of Richmond Museums
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Field Trip Report: Nineteen members embarked on a field trip unique to our club. First, this trip occurred in the winter and second it was indoors. A bit unusual but that's what makes life interesting.

Our initial destination was the Stone Goddess Rock Shop. With light snow falling, we were greeted at around 10:00 a.m. by the shop's new owner, Red Kromm, who was delighted to have us. Her little shop had something for everyone including: reference books, finished jewelry, rough material, fossils, minerals and metaphysical pieces. She was a most gracious hostess. While we kept her busy at the register she kept our stomachs filled with snacks and desserts.

Lunchtime was approaching, so it was time to mosey along. Anne and Bob Kramer recommended the What-A-Burger restaurant a few blocks down for lunch. After lunch we were off to the Lora Robins Gallery at the University of Richmond.

We arrived shortly before 1:00 p.m. and were welcomed by the most pleasant and knowledgeable staff. Mr. Matthew Houle, Curator of Museum Collections, provided us with an informative overview of the history and development of The Gallery. Most of the collections displayed are permanent; however, the center area is reserved for traveling exhibits.

Mr. Houle lead us to their fluorescent mineral display room. Members chimed in with oohs and aahs as those ordinary looking rocks seemed to come to life with fluorescent colors.

From here, members strolled through the numerous rows of lighted displays, fascinated by each specimen before them. The pieces seemed endless. There were fossils, minerals, faceted stones, geodes, carvings and cabochons.

The gallery is only able to display a small percentage of the pieces they own due to lack of space. Therefore, they have a great opportunity to periodically rotate specimens and keep visitors coming back.

By 3:30 p.m. the last of us said thank you and farewell to the staff and headed for the interstates. It was a fun day filled with adventure and fellowship. Thank you to those who were able to go. We will certainly look into scheduling another visit next year.

When: Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 8 am to 12:30 pm.

What to Bring:

We are going to a rock shop and stopping for lunch...bring money.

Children - Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

