

REGULAR MEETING of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. will be held on Monday November 14th in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The business meeting will begin at 7:45 but the room is available to us from 7:30 PM until 10 PM so come early to chat with old and new friends and see what is on display on the Show Table.

SPEAKER will be Dr. Harold Williams of the Planetarium at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College. His topic will be the Chesapeake Bay Meteor. An article appeared in the October 23rd Washington Post which provided a good background for those who read it.

ELECTIONS will be held at the November meeting. Scott Braley agreed to have his name placed on the ballot for President for 2006. Other

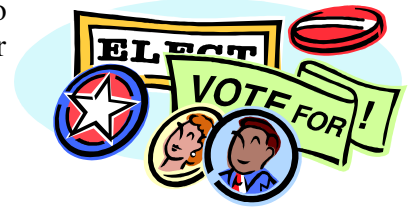


officers who have agreed to continue are:

Vice President Rod Towers

Secretary Robert Winfield

Treasurer Juan Proaño



Of course other nominations may be made from the floor provided the individual nominated agrees to serve.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Will meet on Monday November 21st at 7:30 PM at (**NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION**) the Durland's home, 8600 Bunnell Drive, Potomac. Any Society member is welcome but please let George know if you plan to attend.

FIELD TRIPS for which you must sign up with the leader, Anita Lizas James (301 652 5527), include: November 13, Rockville Quarry, 8:45 AM-1:00 PM. Find minerals Fred Parker described at the September meeting and in his article in the current issue of the Mineralogical Record Magazine.

November 20, Aurora NC fossil collecting trip on Sunday, 8:15 AM. All available spaces are filled.

December 3, Pinesburg MD Quarry. For directions to the quarry in Williamsport, MD it is suggested that you check Map quest on the web. The address is 14932 Bottom Road. You should be there at 8:15 AM. Only a few people have signed up so far.

If you are interested in being notified of last minute trips, be sure Anita has your E Mail address. or phone number. Hers is <alizas@gonzaga.org> or <johnjames04@comcast.net>. She may also have the most current information.

SALE MINERALS at the November meeting from the Fanny Phillips collection will include 68 lots priced at \$253 with an average price of only about \$3.75 each. Prices are fixed for this sale. Juan Proaño, Treasurer, will be glad to accept cash or checks for items you select to buy.



SUNSHINE: Our best wishes for a speedy recovery are extended to MARY BETH MASON, JACK BUSCH, (See Page 3) and NANCY BALLARD, who recently had surgery. (That is why this month's Rockhoulder is being done by Wendell Mohr) Our hearts are with you and we hope to see you all back at meetings soon.

SYMPATHY to Jennie Smith on the death of her husband, Paul Smith, after a long illness. He was a long time Society member. Paul was an avid micro mounter and shared his enthusiasm freely. He was also a gold panner keeping company with the late Jack Nelson. He was a regular at the Micro mounters demonstration at our show, presented several programs. Many prestigious awards were given to Paul for his accomplishments. He was a member of several clubs in the National Capital Area and active in all. He will be sorely missed. Jennie's address is 4400 San Carlos Drive, Fairfax VA 11030, if you'd like to drop her a line.

Deadline for the December Rockhoulder is November 25th.

ROSTER CHANGES:

New Members:

McElravy, Steve and Audrey, 104 E Irvin Av., Hagerstown MD 21742-3430, <mcelravyasra@aol.com>, 301 393-5388

Rory (9/91), Aidan (10/97)

New Addresses:

Durland, Eric (And Alison), 12602 Bluhill Rd., Silver Spring MD 20906-4101, <edurland1@Yahoo.com>, 301 962 1116

Wells, Inga, and Buynak, Michael, 112 Draper St. Sayre PA 18840-1902

New E Mail Address:

Durland, George and Elsie, 8600 Bunnell Dr., Potomac MD 20654-3545, <gdurland1@verizon.net>, 301 299 8213

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those born in November: Fritz Beckman, David Dinsmore, Eric Durland, Jay Koby, Pat Fulcher, Charles Mason, Audrey McElravy, Michelle Michaelis, Wendell Mohr, David Wood, Frederick Olmstead, and Dan Spielman. Your birthstone is TOPAZ. A fine article on TOPAZ appears in the December 2005 issue of Rock and Gem Magazine, Pg. 40. Get a copy and enjoy!

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting October 10, 2005:

The Meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by President George Durland.

The Minutes of the September 12th Regular meeting and the Sept 19th Board meeting were approved as written in the Rockhounder. Among visitors, the McElravy family were voted into membership.

It was announced that there will be an election of officers at the November meeting. Wendell Mohr, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, said that Scott Braley had agreed to stand for President.

Rod Towers was the speaker. His topic was about the Tesla Coil Effect. He explained the historic significance of the work of Nicolai Tesla, who was a proponent of alternating current for power transmission and who invented the coil. Rod demonstrated, with commercially available equipment, the phenomenon of high voltage, high frequency plasma discharges using the Tesla Coil. He showed the blue discharge with Nitrogen gas and the reddish orange of Neon gas. An interesting induced light in fluorescent lights, Neon lights, and sodium vapor lights was shown without any direct connection to electrical power. He spoke of the relevance to his research into charged states.

Wendell Mohr spoke about the opportunity for a member to become Region IV EFMLS Vice President, a position now held by Jennie Smith.

George Durland said there is a need for a Science Fair Judging Chairman from the club to replace Kristen Westbrook, who moved to Florida. The Society makes awards to top Earth Science students each year.

There was a discussion about the need for a new Society Librarian since Robert Winfield is unable to accommodate it. Jonathan Harris expressed some interest. A summary of the contents of the library will be obtained, to be shared with the membership later.

Upcoming Field Trips were mentioned.

Rod told of the November Speaker, Harold Williams, on the Chesapeake Bay Meteor.

George Durland told of the agreement from Jim Michaelis to become Show Co-Chairman to handle on site affairs since Harvey Lindenbaum had moved to NC, but agreed to continue as Show Chair.

George Durland reported for Juan Proaño, Treasurer, that "We are still solvent".

Upcoming Gem and Mineral Shows were mentioned.

George Durland spoke of Mineral Calendars which could be purchased. The cost would be as low as about \$10.00 depending upon the number ordered and S&H charges. If interested see George.

Wendell Mohr spoke about the reactivated American Lands Access Association. There is a bill which has passed the Senate, S-263, which, if passed by the house, would greatly limit fossil collecting on public land. Collectors need to write their representatives.

SHOW TABLE October 10, 2005

Scott Braley	Columbite-Tantalite*	Emmons Quarry, ME
	Tourmaline (Elbaite)*	Keith Mine, ME
	Quartz Geode*	Near Farmes, KY
George Durland	Terlingua Type Calcites	Terlingua TX, Logansport IN, Nueva Leone State, Mexico, Coahuila Province, Mexico
Ben Harris	Granite	Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia, Canada
Jonathan Harris	Prehnite, Albite, Dolomite	Rockville Crushed Stone, Rockville MD
Sarah Kaider	Prehnite	NengouKou, Sanare District, Kayes Region, Mali
David Kogon	Variety of siliceous Mat'ls	Bavaria, Germany (1947)
Rory McElravy	Jasper*	Locality not given
Joel Rosen	Calcite	Silver Bell Mine, Ouray CO
Rod Towers	Microscope and micro specimens	
Paul Vance	Tourmaline	Mexico

*Indicates Self-collected

DOOR PRIZES: The Junior door prize, a hematite egg, was won by Rory McElravy, a new member. The Show Table prize, Cobaltian Calcite from Morocco, was won by David Kogon. The General door prize, A slice of fossilized tree fern, was won by Bob LaVilla.

The meeting was adjourned about 9:30 PM.

EIGHTY-EIGHT GOES INTO HIATUS And as of October 3rd, I don't know for how long. In fact when the docs told me the cause of my painful ailment, I thought they were talking about those lakes in west central NY state,. You know the ones I mean: Cayuga, Seneca, Onondaga, etc. Nope, mine was sciatica, and there was nothing humerus about it as it's in my leg, and not my arm, and though the analgesic I'm taking helps some in easing the pain in the tender areas, it seems the prime benefit is inciting the commission of some puny puns. By the time you read this, I should have received an epidural block, designed to ease the pain. And never mind the smart remarks about not having heard that I was expecting. I have already heard all of them. Anyhow, I hope to get back to the annals next month. Hope you had a Happy Halloween and have a tremendous Thanksgiving. Jack Busch

SHOWS AND ROCK SWAPS COMING UP:

Nov. 11-13, The Greater Pittsburgh Area Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show. Washington Co. Fairgrounds, Washington PA. Fri. and Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5.

Nov. 12, Richmond Gem and Mineral Society Rock Swap. 9-3, Indoors, Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall, 1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond VA. Info: Murray Rosenberg 804 740 0019, <murrayrosenberg@i-c.net>

Nov. 19-20, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4, Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc. Student Union II Building, George Mason University Campus, Braddock Rd. and Route 123, Fairfax VA.

Nov. 18-20, (Preview Party 11/17 7 PM), Carnegie Gem and Mineral Show, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Av. Pittsburgh PA. Info: Marc Wilson 412 622 8837, <wilsonm@CarnegieMNH.org>, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. Noon-5.

FOSSIL BILL: The US Senate passed and sent to the US House of Representatives "The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2005", Senate Bill S-263, last July. The House has referred the Bill to several Committees for review and possible revision, including the House Natural Resources Committee, and some of its sub committees, as well as the House Agriculture Committee. No House Bill number has been introduced or assigned to this fossil bill. In the last Congress (the 108th) your letters, emails and phone calls helped bottle up this bill. A congressional contact has suggested to us that we need to send comments and any concerns to our own members of the House, and to the members of those Committees as soon as possible, (Continued on next page)

FOSSIL BILL (Continued)

if this bill is to be defeated or amended to meet the objections of amateur fossil collectors. The Senate Bill can be reviewed on the internet at <<http://thomas.loc.gov>> under the Bill number S- 263 or obtained through your local Congressional Representative. Contacts may be made by mail, phone call, or E Mail. To get the mailing and E Mail address of your elected representatives you may go to internet at: <<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/>>

INCLUDE IT ON YOUR LETTERS!

from Dick Pankey, CFMS Editor



One sure way of adding that extra bit of "zing" to the letters you send to your Congressional representatives is to add one of the bright yellow "rockhound" stickers at the top of your letter. Using the sticker immediately identifies you as someone concerned with the federal legislation concerning the collecting of fossils that is now before the House of Representatives. You can obtain a quantity of these 1" stickers (Actual size shown here) from the Ye Olde Timers group of the California Federation. The cost is \$3 per 100 stickers plus postage - 60¢ for 300 stickers. Checks should be made payable to "Ye Olde Timers" and sent to Richard Pankey, 4310 Kingsley Dr., Pittsburg, CA 94565-6267. Be sure to specify that you want the 1" stickers and to also include your name and address to which they should be sent. Let's start using these on all our correspondence with Congress (and with your own state Legislature) for all matters dealing with our collecting future.

SAFETY FIRST - LAPIDARY & FACETING SAFETY

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair

1. PROTECTIVE GLASSES should be worn when breaking, chipping or grinding rocks. GOGGLES and SAFETY SHIELDS should be worn in addition to the protective glasses when using caustic liquids, dressing grinding wheels, or creating large flying chunks of rocks.

2. GRINDING WHEELS should not be run faster than the speeds recommended by the manufacturer. If you are unsure, run the wheel no faster than 2,500 surface feet per minute (SFPM). POLISHING and BUFFING wheels are operated at a speed of 3,000 to 7,000 SFPM with 4,000 SFPM a good speed for most purposes. Stand to the side of the grinding machine when starting up and allow at least one minute of warm up time before starting to work. Do not let wheels become waterlogged. Start the water flow or drip after the wheel is up to speed, keep the flow adequate to keep the wheel and work cool and clear the removed material, and keep it running after the water is secured until the it is completely dry, otherwise it could have a heavy spot and be out of balance. An out of balance wheel could disintegrate upon restarting.



FACETING LAPS should be removed after spin drying, completely cleaned with a good dishwashing liquid to remove all residue, hand dried with a towel, and then placed back onto the spindle and spun at high speed until completely dry. This will keep the wheel from rusting and developing surface pits which can scratch, chip, or cause the work to separate from the dop, creating a "missile hazard".

Keep grinding wheels true. They will wear longer and there will be less chance of the wheel parting while in use. Grinding should be started near the center plane of the wheel and then moved back and forth across the face of the wheel so as to produce even wear. Do not force the work and take too heavy of a cut. The same process should be practiced with laps, using the full surface of the lap to produce even wear and avoid grooves to occur with time. Wear appropriate eye, hand, and body protection when using dressing tools. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the dressing tool being used. Only the periphery or circumference of standard grinding wheels are designed for grinding. Never grind on the sides of a grinding wheel. Insure that the work rest and peripheral guard are properly installed and only adjusted when the equipment is unplugged and not running.

3. BELTS and PULLEY's should be covered by guards to protect fingers and keep clothing from getting caught.

4. DOP STICKS or JIG's and FIXTURES should be used with small stones to protect the fingers and keep
(Continued next page)

SAFETY (Continued)

the stone from “flying off” if dropped or thrown by the wheel.

5. DUST MASKS or a SUCTION BLOWER should be used when dry sanding to avoid the inhalation of fine dust which can obtain silica or harmful compounds from the material being sanded. Silica can lead to SILICOSIS, a serious lung condition which can not be cured. It may well be prudent to wear a chemical mask when WET GRINDING or SANDING if the water is being recirculated and could have dangerous compounds in it from the materials being worked or previously worked.

6. ALCOHOL LAMPS burn clear and can burn skin and set combustibles on fire if not secured when not in use. Do not overheat dop wax or the dops which can burn the skin and possibly damage the work. Overheated or old dop wax can be weakened and cause the stone to fly off the dop. Select the correct dop wax for the temperature required for the type of stone being worked.

7. CONTAINERS should be properly labeled. Putting polishing powders in baking powder cans, for instant, without a proper identifying label, can be dangerous. Tin Oxide can cause illness if used in place of baking powder.

8. OXALIC ACID greatly facilitates the polishing of agates, but is caustic to the skin as well as a poison if inhaled or ingested. Oxalic acid can also burn the cornea of the eyes, resulting in impaired eyesight.

SULFURIC and NITRIC ACID are sometimes mixed with polishing compounds when faceting sapphire and may be used on lead laps. Use the following safety precautions when using caustic chemicals:



A. Wear protective glasses with drip proof or mist proof goggles over them.

B. Apply the polish to the wheel with a brush.

C. Wear protective gloves and a rubber apron to protect the skin and clothing.

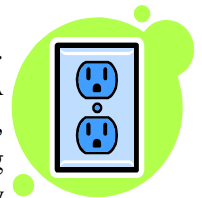
D. Wash any contact of the compound with the skin immediately with soap and water. The application of a baking soda pack is advisable, or sponging with a solution of baking soda in water. If any gets in the eyes, thoroughly irrigate with water. Medical attention is also advisable.

9. POLISHING COMPOUNDS used today are relatively non-toxic to most individuals. The use of detergents added to the polishing compounds may cause a dermatitis in some individuals and can be avoided by using masks, goggles, gloves, and rubber aprons.

10. EPOXY RESINS are very irritating to the skin and may cause severe dermatitis if contact is not avoided. Acetone will remove resin from the skin.

11. Modern CUTTING OILS are a primary skin irritant and can be a potential fire hazard. Avoid using older cutting oils, as some contain dangerous chemicals that can lead to serious illness if inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin.

12. Do not overload ELECTRICAL OUTLETS or place them in areas where they will get wet. If in doubt, have the circuits checked by an electrician. AN ELECTRICIAN’S FEE IS A SMALL PRICE FOR ONE’S OWN SAFETY! Install switches and motors in a dry place, where water from grinding and sanding will not splash on them. The shut off switch or plug should be within reach of the operator. Have all motors and outlets grounded. In case of faulty wiring or a short circuit, the ground will absorb the shock, not the operator. Standing on a rubber mat will provide some protection, but the mat will be wet and still transmit electrical current, which could be fatal. Ground fault (GFI) circuit breakers and outlets are recommended rather than plug fuses and standard outlets. If a person suffers an electrical shock, it is important to remove them from the source with a stick or other non-conductive item before beginning resuscitation. Shutting off the power source, if known, will also decrease the hazard to others in the area. Get medical attention as some effects of electrical shock can be delayed.



13. Use proper lifting techniques while moving items in the shop.

YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND IF.....

You think road cuts are built as tourist attractions.

You describe your vacations by the rocks you brought home.

The rockpile in your garage is over your head.

Your PC screen saver features pictures of rocks.

You find rocks when you empty your pockets at night.

You went to a rock festival and you hate music.

You gave rocks, tumblers, or rock tools for Christmas.

When friends say they are going to Tucson, you assume it will be in February.

You can find Quartzite on a map in less than 5 seconds.

When someone mentions "Franklin", you think of NJ rather than Ben.

You can pronounce "Molybdenite" correctly on the first try.

The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.

The bookshelves in your home hold more rocks than books, and the books that are there are about rocks.

The first thing you pack for your vacation is a chisel and a hammer

By members of the GMEDITORS E Mail Swap Group. Contributors include Mel Albright, Richard Busch, Betty Commean, Dan Imel, Bob Keller, Paul Kline.

AN OLD ROCKHOUND goes to the local witch to ask if she can remove a curse he has been living under for the past 40 years. The witch says, "Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you." The old rockhound says without hesitation, "I now pronounce you man and wife."

Internet

I saw these on the web

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr

Digital Mineral Photography, <<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/articles/photo.htm>>, is a four page action packed treatise by John Betts. It covers Equipment Needs, a dissertation about Resolution, Pixels, and Dots per inch, Camera Requirements, Other Equipment, Lighting, Editing, Software, Making the Image, Image Editing, and Advanced Techniques. Beside the wonderful photos accompanying the article, there is a link to his Gallery of Minerals. If you wish you may head to the homepage of John Betts-Fine Minerals, dealer. The photographer was trying to best capture the iridescence of chalcopyrite. He asked the expert which side showed the best color. Expert said "The outside".



American Masters of Stone, by Conrad Grundke, at <<http://www.americanmastersofstone.com/>>, deals with Intarsia or Commesso, which is a new term to me. This is a work in progress. The Introduction, by June Culp Zeitner, shows gorgeous examples. "Artists" features over 2000 images from over 300 artists, including Navajo Verma Nequatewa, Herb Duke (Recently deceased Bethesda MD founder of the International G&M Shows), and world famous Olive Colhur and my favorite Nicolai Medvedev. Notes on version 2.0, yet to come, are included. The "How to" section is excellent. Links are included. An artist was learning intarsia work. Everything went well until he turned on his polishing equipment with its water flow. His dog came over. Lap, Lap, Lap. His tongue was polished. That same fellow bought a new Optivisor. Shortly he started singing a familiar song: "I Can See Clearly Now".

Minerals of Scotland, <<http://www.curriehj.freemove.co.uk/>>, by Hal Currie, has over 240 mineral photographs and 75 location pictures. Check out the localities of Leadhills and Wanlockhead, Isle of Skye, and others including Strontian, the type locality for Strontianite, and see photos of specimens. Currie, the Scotsman, suffered a bad accidental fall in an old mine he had entered. Nearly kilt him! There is a section about collector minerals in the UK. Articles include Quartz and Mineral Inclusions, and a Minerals Guide for Ireland. The finest twin crystals come from Dublin! Links are available.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Both are at the Smithsonian NMNH Baird Auditorium at Noon.

Nov. 18. The Very Long Reach of Very Large Earthquakes is the topic of Dr. Susan Hough, geologist at the USGS, Pasadena. She will explore new paradigms for earthquake interactions with each other and with human cultures, past and present. .

Dec. 2. Rock Collecting at the Four Corners of the Western Hemisphere: the Cardinal directions Project of the National Museum of the American Indian. Four large boulders were selected to be moved to the grounds of the new museum. Learn about their spiritual and geological significance. Tim Rose is among the lecturers.

LIBRARY Although Robert Winfield has asked to be relieved of the librarian position, it has been quite some time since the library contents were listed for you to see. You can ask Bob or his replacement to check out any of the books listed. Call Bob at 301 251 6671 or E Mail him at <winfielr@intra.nimh.nih.gov>. Here is the beginning portion of the list and more will follow in later issues of the Rockhounder.

#	Part/Author	Title	Date
		<i>Geo. Soc. of America Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology</i>	
1	Part C	<u>Protista 2 (1)</u>	
2	Part C	<u>Protista 2 (2)</u>	
3	Part D	<u>Protista 3</u>	
4	Part F	<u>Coelenterata</u>	
5	Part G	<u>Bryozoa (see also GLMS131(</u>	
6	Part H	<u>Brachiopoda (1)</u>	
7	Part H	<u>Brachiopoda (2)</u>	
8	Part I	<u>Mollusca 1</u>	
9	Part K	<u>Mollusca 3</u>	
10	Part L	<u>Mollusca 4</u>	
12	Part N	<u>Mollusca 6 (2)</u>	
13	Part O	<u>Arthropoda 1</u>	
14	Part P	<u>Arthropoda 2</u>	
15	Part Q	<u>Arthropoda 3</u>	
16	Part R	<u>Arthropoda 4 (1)</u>	
17	Part R	<u>Arthropoda 4 (2)</u>	
18		<u>Echinodermata 1 (1)</u>	
19		<u>Echinodermata 1 (2)</u>	
20		<u>Echinodermata 3 (1)</u>	
21		<u>Echinodermata 3 (2)</u>	
22		<u>Rev</u>	
23	Part W	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
24	Webster	<u>Practical Gemmology</u>	1966
27	Sinkankas	<u>Gemcutting</u>	
28	Franke	<u>Handwrought Jewelry</u>	1962
29	Choate	<u>Creative Casting</u>	1966
30	Hurlburt	<u>Manual of Mineralogy</u>	1977
31	Vargas	<u>Descriptions of Gem Materials</u>	1972
32	Orbis Publication	<u>Color Treasury of Crystals</u>	1973
32A	Orbis Publication	<u>Color Treasury of Crystals</u>	1972
34	USGS Bull.1358	<u>Lexicon of Geological Names, U. S.</u>	1961-67
36	Ford	<u>Dana's Textbook of Mineralogy</u>	1966
36A	Ford	<u>Dana's Textbook of Mineralogy</u>	1958
38	Webster	<u>Gemmologists Compendium</u>	1967
40	Cooke,et.al.	<u>The Polarizing Microscope</u>	
41	Zeitner	<u>Midwest Gem Trails</u>	1964
41A	Zeitner	<u>Midwest Gem Trails</u>	1964
42	Mathews	<u>Fossils</u>	1962