



WE'RE SERVING UP OUR VERY BEST WISHES  
FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR



THE REGULAR MEETING of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. will be held on Monday January 9th in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, in Rockville. The business meeting will begin at 7:45 but the room is available to us at 7:30 PM so come early and see what you and others have on the Show Table and chat with old friends. The speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Post, Curator of the Gem and Mineral Collection at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, a special friend to all of us, will speak on "New research on the Hope Diamond".

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet on Monday, January 16th at 7:30 PM at the home of Dave and Nancy Ballard. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend.

THE ROSTER has been updated under the very able guidance of Bob Irby, and is included with this issue for our MEMBERS ONLY. Bob went through the tedious task of verifying E Mail addresses and other information listed. If you find errors, please contact Nancy Ballard. It is not to be used for solicitation of business or any purpose not related to Society activities. PLEASE SAVE THIS ROSTER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE and add the information for new members, or changes for current members, as printed later in the Rockhoulder.

A SHOW EXHIBIT application is also included with this issue. Our largest annual event is the GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, this year on March 18 and 19, 2006. We take pride in the many exhibits which YOU and friends put into the show, and a feature not seen in commercial shows. A few people in the past have contributed as many as 4 or 5 cases, which is an extra burden on them. Of course you can obligate yourself to more than one case, but we want to enlist more participation from others this year. YOU can do it! Plan NOW to exhibit. Frances Gallegos, Exhibits Chair, always experiences a lack of commitment by members until very near the time of the show. She needs to be able to allocate space and prepare recognition for exhibits in the program. Help her out by not procrastinating. She would like to have the assurance of 40 or more cases. Don't be shy. Everyone is a beginner at some time. If you feel you have not got enough for an exhibit, mention this at the meeting and perhaps we can pair up some people for a shared exhibit.

FIELD TRIPS There are currently no field trips planned for January. If you are interested in being notified of possible last minute trips, be sure Anita Lizas James has your E Mail address or phone number. Her E Mail is <alizas@gonzaga.org> or alternatively <johnjames04@comcast.net>, or phone 301 652 5527.

SNOW CONTINGENCY Reminder: If schools in Montgomery County, MD are to be cancelled, or let out early, because of weather on the day of a scheduled Society meeting, we will have no meeting. Call the Society President or a Board Member (Numbers on the back of the ROCKHOUNDER) if in doubt. With the unusual weather patterns this year who knows what can happen!

KUDOS to George Durland, who has ended his term as President. The Bylaws allow a maximum of only two years in office. George did a great deal to move the society forward and deserves the thanks of us all. Other Officers and Committee Chair persons, who are continuing on for another year, also deserve a note of special thanks too.



DEADLINE for the February Rockhoulder is January 30, 2006



to those born in January: Chris Barr, Scott Braley, Chris Crosswhite, Gladys Fuller, Ben Harris, Sara LaVilla, Robert Meny, Rob Robinson, Ron Suddendorf, and Don Turner. The January birthstone is Garnet, not itself a mineral, but instead a *group* of minerals with the formula  $A_3B_2(SiO_4)_3$  where “A” may be Manganese, Magnesium, Calcium, or Iron and “B” may be Chromium or Aluminum or other elements such as Titanium, Iron, Zirconium, Vanadium, or Manganese. Fifteen recognized garnet types, include Almandine, Andradite, Demantoid, Grossular, Melanite, Pyrope, Spessartine, and Uvarovite. Many lay people think of garnets as only red. However they may also be black, white, colorless, green, pink, brown, purple, orange or combinations. If you find a blue garnet, however, you will be famous, for they are not known. All crystals are isometric and have similar density. Hardness ranges from 6.5 to 7.5, and the refractive indices are similar and high, making a good choice as a gemstone. Buy and use a good mineral book to learn more about the garnet group.



MINUTES of the Regular Meeting December 12, 2005: The Meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by Pres. George Durland, with about 33 in attendance. The November Regular meeting Minutes were approved as written in the Rockhounder. George recognized, with appreciation, Nancy Ballard for setting up the hospitality tables for the evening’s holiday party. The terms for the silent auction of residual Fanny Phillips material and the sale of Tom Wolf material donated by Stephanie Sidella, his daughter were explained. The entire proceeds from both sales will enhance the treasury. Visitor Richard Davies, from Fairfax VA was introduced. He has agreed to demonstrate faceting at the March show. Another visitor was Heather Felsen, whose interest is in jewelry making. Nancy Ballard announced that she had Wildacres applications and a list of class offerings. It was announced that Paul Vance is still extending his offer of having members come to his home to be taught cabochon making. The two hour class will qualify you to teach in the shop at the March show. There is a desperate need for instructors due to the loss of several regulars. The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30, after which we enjoyed the sale items, food, and friendship. Fun! Secretary Pro-tem Wendell Mohr.

DOOR PRIZES. The general door prize, polished fossil Ammonites with stands, was won by Don Turner. Rory McElravy, junior member, won a polished Malachite. Two other juniors, Ben Harris and Sarah Kaider won a faceted Quartz, and Faceted Cubic Zirconia respectively.

MISTAKE in the Rockhounder? We try to include something for everyone. Since a few earth science enthusiasts like to find errors, we include some from time to time. Last month the dates and times for the home sales by Fred Parker and Larry Kraus were switched. Sorry!

UPCOMING SHOW: Delaware Mineralogical Society, 42nd Annual Earth Science, Gem, and Mineral Show, Saturday, March 4, 2006 10 AM to 6 PM, Sunday, March 5, 2006 11 AM to 5 PM At Delaware Technical and Community College I-95 Exit 4B, Churchmans Road (Route 58) Newark (Stanton), DE 19713. Tickets available at the door: Adults \$5.00, Seniors \$4.00, Juniors \$3.00, and children under 12 free with Adult. For further information, contact: Gene Hartstein, (302) 234-4488 or <fossilnut@aol.com>

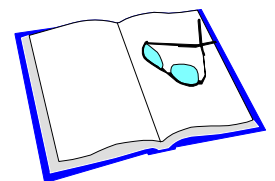
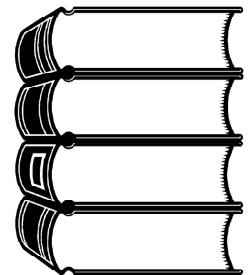


1. I will sign up to volunteer to work at our March show for eight hours.
2. I will put at least one exhibit case in our March show.
3. I will take some leadership role in the Society:
  - A. 2007 Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show Chairman.
  - B. Rockhounder Editor.
  - C. Historian.
  - D. Show Lapidary Workshop Chairperson.
  - E. Librarian.

Contact new President, Scott Braley.

**LIBRARY** More library contents are listed here for you to see. You can ask Bob Winfield 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>.

#	AUTHOR	TITLE	YEAR
96	Quick	<u>The Book of Agates and Other Quartz Gems</u>	1963
98	Bernstein	<u>Minerals of the Washington, D.C. Area</u>	1980
98A	Bernstein	<u>Minerals of the Washington, D.C. Area</u>	1980
98B	Bernstein	<u>Minerals of the Washington, D.C. Area</u>	1980
99	Glaser	<u>Collecting Fossils in Maryland</u>	1979
99A	Glaser	<u>Collecting Fossils in Maryland</u>	1979
100	Leechman	<u>The Opal Book</u>	1961
101	Hardy	<u>The Jewelry Engravers Manual</u>	1976
109	Strong	<u>Desert Gem Trails</u>	1966
110	Johnson	<u>Western Gem Hunters Atlas</u>	1963
111	Dake	<u>The Agate Book</u>	1951
114	USGS	<u>Bull.1471, The River &amp; the Rocks</u>	1980
114A	USGS	<u>Bull.1471, The River &amp; the Rocks</u>	1980
115	AFMS	<u>Safety Manual</u>	
117	AFMS	<u>Guidelines for Exhibitors</u>	1980
117A	AFMS	<u>Guidelines for Exhibitors</u>	1980
118	AFMS	<u>Guidelines for Exhibitors</u>	1980
122	AFMS	<u>Guidelines for Bulletin Editors</u>	1973
125	Dodson	<u>Rockhounding in Arkansas</u>	1974
126	Johnson	<u>Eastern Gem Hunters Atlas</u>	1976
128	Snowman	<u>Carl Faberge</u>	1979
129	Dietrich	<u>Stones, Their Collection, Identification and Uses</u>	1980
130	Sinkankas	<u>Gemstones of North America, Vol. II</u>	1976
131	G.S.A.	<u>Invert. Paleontology, Part G-Bryozoa (revised Vol.I)</u>	1983
132	Vargas	<u>Faceting for Amateurs</u>	1977
134	Busch	<u>Safety Booklet (GLMS, Montgomery County, MD)</u>	1965
100	Quick	<u>The Book of Agates and Other Quartz Gems</u>	1976
102	Bernstein	<u>Minerals of the Washington, D.C. Area</u>	1976
98A	Bernstein	<u>Minerals of the Washington, D.C. Area</u>	1976
98B	Bernstein	<u>Minerals of the Washington, D.C. Area</u>	1977
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118	Leechman	<u>The Opal Book</u>	1977
120	Hardy	<u>The Jewelry Engravers Manual</u>	1977
147	Boardman	<u>Engraved Gems</u>	1968
148	Pough	<u>Field Guide to Rocks &amp; Minerals</u>	1966
148A	Pough	<u>Field Guide to Gems &amp; Minerals</u>	1960
152	Mummert&Shelton	<u>Exhibiting, The Show Biz Aspect of the Hobby</u>	1990
153	USGS	<u>Building Stones of Our Nation's Capital</u>	1998
154	Harshaw	<u>Emeralds of North Carolina</u>	1974
154A	Harshaw	<u>Emeralds of North Carolina</u>	1974



**POSTAL RATES** Are rising as of January 8th. The new \$0.39 first class stamps are available, in Statue of Liberty and American Flag versions. For the \$0.02 add-on stamps to be used with current \$0.37 stamps, the United States Postal Service is reprinting the Navajo jewelry stamp issued in 2004. A very attractive stamp, it features turquoise in a silver stylized squash blossom style. Also notice the new \$0.39 snowflake stamps on page one. All can be ordered online at <www.usps.com> or calling 1 800 782 6724

YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND IF.....

You examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.

UPS has a regular pickup and delivery schedule for your house.

You can't remember the last time your car still fit in the garage.

Your children have names like Rocky, Jewel, and Beryl.

Your local rock shops send you get well cards when you don't stop by in more than a week.

The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.

Your wife knows you are down in the basement sorting rocks but can't quite find you nor does she remember that pretty wall down there.

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



METAL SMITHING – IS IT DANGEROUS?? Message from your AFMS Safety Committee, Don Monroe  
Students in my beginning silver classes often ask if the class is dangerous. The answer to this question can be both yes and no. If you listen to the instructions given by the instructor, it is very unlikely that any sort of injury will result but we must always be aware and be very careful because minor injuries are not uncommon. We all learned, probably before age two, that fire will burn you, as will hot metal, hot water and all other hot things. I open each new class with a brief lecture discussing the things in the class-room that can cause an injury. Students will often be afraid of the torch and need some instruction and encouragement when soldering. I always tell them that while the torch is an obvious hazard, it is really not the piece of equipment that is responsible for most injuries. During the years I have been teaching, I have never had a student suffer a serious injury but we do not want to see even small cuts, scrapes or burns. Almost all of the injuries result from polishing equipment used improperly. A buffing machine will “grab” a piece of jewelry being polished and sling it away and can cause severe injuries if it snags a finger or hand in the process. Surprisingly more buffing/polishing injuries result from the flexible shaft machines. While using a Foredom, Dremel, or similar machine with small buffing wheels or Cratex-type wheels, the edge of the piece will catch the wheel and run around behind the piece being polished. This often results in a bent mandrel, that can hit the hand and cause a nasty cut. Eye injuries are a category where none of us provides enough care for ourselves and those around us. We should wear safety glasses or some type of eye protection. We all know that, but so few of us do what we should. I must confess that I am not as religious about eye protection as I should be. We use a variety of chemicals in our workshops and some of them deserve more caution than we give them. Think about the following list:

Pickle solution for cleaning silver. (It is an acid you know!)

Flux for cleaning silver definitely requires ventilation to avoid breathing dangerous fumes.

Blacking or other solutions used to create a patina.

Alcohol and acetone which are not only flammable but should not be breathed.

These are just a few of those that we use. Should we not read the MSDS sheets (Material Safety Data Sheets) that come with many of the products? If we don't get the MSDS for new materials we purchase, I am sure that suppliers will jump at the opportunity to send us one. It is the law!

The last type of injury that I want to discuss is the common cut. Almost everything we handle can cause a cut. Paper cuts are most annoying and can become infected. Knives, jeweler's saws, broken glass and sharp edges of work pieces can open cuts. We keep first aid supplies handy and, for ourselves, we use super glue. Not being licensed medical personnel we do not treat the students with super glue but we describe for them the potential benefits. My dermatologist ( who saved my life ) uses super glue for small incisions with great success. It is my understanding that this material was actually developed for battlefield use in Viet Nam and I have been impressed with it. Might be worth having a discussion with your physician and get his ( Or her ) opinion.



**INTERNET**

**Stop and Browse Here**

**Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr**

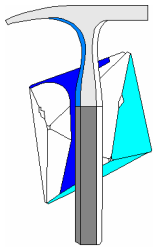


**Project Pterosaur** by Dr. Richard Paley & Fellowship University Theobiology Department Staff can be viewed at <<http://objectiveministries.org/creation/projectpterosaur.html>>. The goal of Project Pterosaur is to mount an expedition to locate and bring back to the United States living specimens of pterosaurs or their fertile eggs. You may also wish to see <<http://www.laattorneyvideo.com/nonlegal/pterosaurs/>> Titled **Pterosaurs Still Living**. Paleontologists say pterosaurs are the largest animals that ever flew, ruling the skies for 150 million years before their sudden demise. I'll say no more. I will leave you to investigate and ask yourself more questions. You can view this one and make up your own mind about it! Pthanks to Georgia Olmstead for this lead.

**Micromounts.com**, <<http://www.micromounts.com>>, by Tim Jokela Jr. of Strathroy, Ontario, Canada offers a plethora of information. See What is a micromount, Why try micromounting, How to make a micromount, Tools of the trade, and a Photomicrograph gallery. References are cited under Micromounting library. Not to be missed are Micromounting links (Some of which are broken) leading to many more photographs. Sale items and some commercial sites are included. Linked <<http://www.ontariominerals.com>>, **Ontario Minerals** by the same author is very worthwhile. Where do micromounters buy their autos? At Car Min! "What are the dark crystals on the matrix", the observer asked. "Those are Folgers Crystals" was the reply.



The **Minerals and Geology Page**, although nearly five years old, by John C. Nichols, Forest Geologist, at <<http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/minerals/welcome.htm>>, demonstrates the positive side of collecting in National



Forest areas. The main focus is on the Ouachita and Ozark Forests in AR and OK. After the geology of the two forests, there are good sections about Rockhounding, and Rockhounding photographs. Following that, fine information about Quartz collecting in the Mount Ida AR area. Site picture quality is not great. There is information about Other minerals and Links. There are too many other topics to list here. The quartz collector said, "I'm not going to use gloves, they're too encumbering." "Suture self", said his partner. Sam and Ruth went collecting without safety glasses. Ruth lost an eye due to a flying quartz chip and later died due to an infection. Now Sam

is ruthless in stressing safety.

**HOW ABOUT:**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Feldspar       | A battle between two rockhounds over who saw that neat rock first?  |
| 2. Tourmarine     | A boat trip.  |
| 3. Floorite       | A new kind of synthetic flooring.   |
| 4. Sappy hire     | Wow, was it ever dumb to hire him!  |
| 5. Dangburite!    | The one you dropped on your toe.  |
| 6. Citrine        | Oranges, limes, etc.  |
| 7. Bearite        | The rock that big grizzly is sitting on!  |
| 8. Call cite      | A rock phone booth.   |
| 9. Halite         | Summer storm.   |
| 10. Diddenite.    | Gemstone variety often used for worry stones.   |
| 11. Canburnite.   | Named after a town in old Connecticut. Location now lost.<br>(Note: subject to spontaneous combustion. Handle like Sodium metal.) |
| 12. Garnet        | Device for catching long-nosed fish.  |
| 13 Fluorapatite   | Hungry for wooden floors.   |
| 14. Kiderite.     | Fool's iron. Often associated with Lyrite, Fool's nickel..  |
| 15. Golframite.   | Used to make very hard drivers.   |
| 16. Hematite      | Shematite's mate.   |
| 17. Curbonitites. | A class of rock used in highway construction.   |
| 18. Javalava.     | A volcanic rock. The original source of mud coffee.   |
| 19 Magnetite      | Great personality   |
| 20 Tremolite      | Reverb sound (goes WAY back folks)  |
| 21. Sillimanite   | Funny ha ha   |

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for the Rockhounder and its editor. Such items are to be sent to the editor's home address.



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