

*He's a Gem, Too*

**THE REGULAR MEETING** of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. will be held on Monday June 12th in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, in Rockville. The business meeting will begin at 7:45 PM 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 program will be by our Vice President and Program Chairman, Rod Towers, about Pleistocene Vertebrate Fossils. Rod is enthusiastic about his subject. He was scheduled for February, when snow interfered, but the few hardy people who showed up anyway heard his talk at that time. Here is a chance to hear it again or for the first time. Come and enjoy his presentation, which will be informative.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Will meet on Monday June 19 at 7:30 PM at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend.

**ROSTER UPDATE** Welcome new members:

Lupuloff, Harry, 14005 Gray Birch Way, Rockville MD 20850-5455, Phone, E Mail information later.  
Zachary

Changes: Barr, Chris new E Mail <cbarr@postschell.com> ( Oooops, Editor mistake in May news letter)  
Dietz, Andy, 12417 Glen Carrie Road, Ashland VA 23005-7848, (Phone # later), <dietziv@yahoo.com>  
James, Anita Lizas, delete <alizas@gonzaga.org>. Use <johnjames04@comcast.net>.  
Seery, Paul, 507 Calvin Lane, Rockville MD 20851-1174.

**WILDACRES** Our Board offers one scholarship each year to a club member who has never been to the workshop, has been a member for at least a year, and has been active in club affairs, especially at our show. It may be used for either session. (Fall 2006, Spring 2007 session.) Nominations are to be submitted to the Board. Any member may make a nomination, including for his or her self. (First come, first served).

**MORE SAD NEWS** Member, David Kogon, 91, died May 28th. You probably remember him as a regular meeting attender, the gentleman who spoke several times about the crushed ores from Bavaria that he obtained at the end of World War II when he was in Germany. He had samples on display numerous times. Our condolences go out to his family. His Daughter-in-law, Susan Kogon of Cincinnati OH (Wife of son, Laurence), said that the family would be clearing his apartment in Leisure World. There are minerals, most of which "were not esthetic", according to her. She can be reached by her cell phone 513 515 1700, or by leaving a message at David's apartment phone, 301 438 1811. She said the family would be here until about June 6th. GLMSMC members are welcome to call if you want to investigate the collection for yourself. She said it would go to the dump otherwise. I have no further information on what he might have had beyond the concentrates.

**DUES** are due by September 1st. Single: \$15, Family: \$20 (which is defined as up to 2 adults and children under 18 years of age). When renewing list only those interested in taking part in Society activities.

**DEADLINE** for the July/August Rockhounder is July 1, 2006

<b>IN THIS ISSUE</b>	
Birthdays, Regular Meeting Minutes, Prizes, Show Table	.....2
Board Meeting Minutes, Society Patches, Sunshine, Auction	.....3
Field Trips, New Rockville Quarry Minerals, Sale	.....4
Be Safe, Be Well	.....5
Library	.....6
GLMSMC History, Educational Activities	.....7
Educational Activities, Winfield Personal Field Trip, Space Mystery	.....8
Web Sites, Shows, Other Club Meetings	.....9
ENJOY!	

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Celebrating birthdays in June are: Dale Fisher, James Fulcher, Susan Harris, Larry Harrison, Anita Lizas James, David MacLean, Fred Parker, George Reimherr, Paul Seery, Eva Spielman, and Gayle Edward Wilson. Pearl is your birthstone.



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** The meeting was called to order at 7:55 PM on May 8, 2006 by President Scott Braley, with attendance of about 33 people. We had several tables of minerals, specimens, slabs etc for sale. Most of these were purchased for the benefit of the club treasury at various times during the evening. Guests were recognized: Bill Jones, Harry Lupuloff and son Zachary, and Peter Kach. The Lupuloffs were unanimously voted into membership. An application for membership was completed by Bill Jones but too late to be recognized due to the long meeting. Our speaker was Tom Tucker who spoke about the Micro-Minerals of Southern Montana. A very interesting slideshow, complete with buffalo, an oil well oozing from the ground (move over Jed Clampett), and numerous and micro and small cabinet specimens. Questions ensued and after a break, the business meeting resumed at 9:30 PM. Wendell Mohr mentioned upcoming field trips, including a newly rescheduled trip to Pinesburg Quarry, Williamsport MD on June 3 at 8:15 AM and upcoming G&M shows, reminded of upcoming Wildacres sessions, and gave details on Frenis Hoffman materials for sale. He mentioned Audubon Society Adult programs about the Geology of Shenandoah Park North, May 14th and Geology Along the Northwest Branch June 4th. An estate involving jewelry supplies is to be examined by Bob Irby. Chuck Mason told that all of the proceeds from the sale of slabs are being donated to the Society by Hans Adler for educational uses. Treasurer, Juan Proaño, reports that we are solvent. Show income was the best since 1997. The Montgomery County Fairgrounds will raise rates again for 2007. There is question whether another organization was booked for our usual 3rd weekend in March Show. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM. Bob Winfield, Secretary.

**MAY PRIZES:** Show Table: George Durland won a Quartz with dendritic manganese oxide inclusions from Minas Gerais, Brazil. Door Prize: Rod Towers won Hemimorphite from Wenshan, Yunnan Province, China. Junior Prize: New junior member, Zachary Lupuloff, won a Fossil Mosasaur Tooth from Morocco.

**MAY SHOW TABLE:**

\* = Self collected or made

Scott Braley: Strontianite\*, Martin Mountain MD, Quartz\* (?) Medford Quarry MD, Celestine\*, Martin Mountain MD, and Barite\* (?) from Pinesburg Quarry, MD\*.

Eric Durland: Hardystonite, Willemite, Clinohedrite (Fluorescent), Franklin NJ.

George Durland: Fluorescent Gypsum, St. Mary's County MD, Gypsum, Watkins Glen NY, Calcite vein with Fluorescent Willemite.

Jonathan Harris: Hydrozincite\*, Sterling NJ, Schorl on Quartz\*, Howard County MD.

Pat Jayne: Petrified wood and fossil teeth, Prince Georges County MD\*

Bob LaVilla: Sunstone, South East Oregon.

Sara LaVilla: Agate, Lincoln City on Oregon Coast.

Chuck Mason: Microfossils Wyoming.

Audrey McElravy, Carnelian, New Zealand.

Rory McElravy: Hemimorphite, Wenshan, Yunnan Province, China.

Wendell Mohr: Show Pictures\*, GLMSMC March Show at Fairgrounds, Peridot, San Carlos Indian Reservation, AZ, Apache Tear (Obsidian) in Perlite, Superior AZ, Andradite Garnet, Graham County AZ.

George Reimherr: Analcime\*, Hunting Hill Quarry, near Rockville MD.

Joel Rosen: Yellow Tourmaline with Albite, Lepidolite, Paprock, Afghanistan.

Rod Towers: Microscope and specimens



An invisible male mineral and fossil collector married an invisible woman collector. They had children. They weren't much to look at either.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES** Information was not received so these are notes taken by your editor. The Meeting of April 17, 2006 at Ballard's home was called to order by President, Scott Braley, at 7:35 PM. Board Members present: Scott Braley, George Durland, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, Rod Towers. Members present: David and Nancy Ballard. Rod Towers reported that he and George Durland represented the GLMSMC presence at the Rockville Science Day, May 7th, at Montgomery College. It was well attended and there were about 25 groups with presentations. He felt that time allowed was not long enough. He also said that he would be the speaker for June. Scott Braley said that he had written a letter of appreciation to Hans Adler for his donation of the materials. He reported that he will not likely be reassigned by the USAF. He will need to miss either the regular or Board meeting in June due to work assignments. George Durland will speak to Pat Jayne about 501C3 status for the Society. The fee for application is increasing July 1st. Juan Proaño issued the final Show financial report which, was very favorable, to the Board. (Financial information is not published in the Rockhounder but is available to any member upon request to Juan.) There is a need to update signatures for accounts at the bank. Juan reported that the Fairgrounds has not yet honored our Show Date. Scott will follow up with them during the next few weeks. Juan reported new income of \$12 from the Adler material and \$286.50 from the Sidella/Wolf material at the May regular meeting. Wendell Mohr reminded us that the offer for a scholarship to Wildacres still stands. He also mentioned that Bob Irby had checked the Rubin estate material and that there was little of interest to our group, being mainly a large quantity of inexpensive brass findings. He said that Joel Rosen had checked the Jenkins material, mostly cutting rough and that he had taken digital photographs which he will share with the Board. Scott will announce at the June meeting the opportunity for Director alternate and Delegate and Delegate alternate for the EFMLS Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach FL Nov. 17th. Wendell proposed a revision of the Membership Application form. It was approved with some changes and additions. The first priority of the Board is to secure a volunteer to be Show Chairman for 2007. Contacts will be made to specific possible candidates. Scott spoke with Jonathan Harris about progress on the web site for the Society. A hosting domain is required. A T shirt for the Society was discussed but not pursued because we have club patches available (see below). A copy of the Society code of ethics will be made available to new and old members. Tom Tucker has volunteered to price specimens donated to the Society by Jennie (And Paul) Smith. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.



**SUNSHINE** Mary Beth Mason has completed her chemotherapy treatments and is near completion of her radiation series. She still needs our prayers and support for successful recovery. If you have information concerning any member who is ill, hospitalized, or has had a death in the family, please contact the Editor.

**AUCTION** The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society has invited anyone interested to their auction of gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment. Date: Friday June 9, 2006. Time: 7:30 PM (Viewing at 7:00 PM). Place: Woman's Club of Catonsville. Directions: Go West on Fredrick Road from 1-695 approx. 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right and go one block to the Woman's Club located behind St. Timothy's Church. Refreshments are available.



**GLMSMC PATCHES** Embroidered patches with the Society logo are available for sale from our Treasurer, Juan Proano. They are about three inches diameter, are suitable for sewing to a jacket or vest and sell for \$2.



Paleontologists found an odd porpoise fossil, it had feet! After it had been photographed and measured, it was prepared for display. Asked one of the researchers, "Wouldn't it be a kindness if we amputated the feet so it would be like other porpoises?" "Not on your life," he exclaimed. "That would be defeating the porpoise".



**FIELD TRIPS.**

**June 3rd**, Saturday, Pinesburg Quarry, Near Williamsport MD, 8:15 AM.

**June 10th**, Saturday, 9 AM-3 PM Annual EFMLS Region IV Swap & Picnic at Shelter #1, Lake Anna State Park, VA. Material Swapping, Treasure Box, Outstanding Picnic Pot Luck Lunch. Swapping and Socializing will begin at 9 AM. NO selling is allowed at the park, so only bring material for swapping. At noon grilled hot dogs will compliment the pot luck dish you bring to share with others. Auction starts at 1:30 PM. Material to be auctioned will consist of donations you bring. Items should be at least somewhat hobby related. Door prizes: Bring one with you because everyone loves to win! The Region IV Treasure Box will be open all day. Bring items that you have a ton of or no longer want. Hobby related, of course. Remember one rockhound's junk is another rockhound's treasure. Bring lawn chair, wear hat, have fun!

**June 11th**, Sunday, Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD, 8:15 AM

**June 17th**, Saturday, Medford Quarry, near Westminster MD, 8:15 AM to ?

**July 1st**, Saturday, Mount Saint Hilaire, Quebec Province, near Montreal, Canada. 8:00 AM. Web sites

<<http://www.montrealgemmineralclub.ca/>> and <[http://www.montrealgemmineralclub.ca/html/msh\\_map.html](http://www.montrealgemmineralclub.ca/html/msh_map.html)> have information and map respectively. Take US I-87, which becomes Canadian Route 15. Turn right (East) on Canadian Route 20 to exit 115. Go right (South) on Canadian Route 229 to Poudrette quarry on right side of road. \$10 CDN fee. Also possible are side tours to Herkimer NY for "Herkimer" diamonds (Quartz) and to the Gore Mountain Garnet Mine in the NY Adirondacks.

For sign up and further information on trips listed, contact Anita Lizas James directly (not the editor) by E Mail <[johnjames04@comcast.net](mailto:johnjames04@comcast.net)> or Phone 301 652 5527.

☞ Joel Rosen, First time at the quarry!

Note: The Morefield Gem Mine is, despite prior reports, open for for fee collecting June 21-24, 27-30, July 1, and Saturdays only Sept. 16 to Dec. 2. See <<http://www.toteshows.com/morefieldmine>>. (Not a GLMSMC sponsored trip-You are on your own if you go)

**THREE NEW MINERALS FOR ROCKVILLE QUARRY**

Contributed by Fred Parker

Brochantite: Jonathan Ertman had Bart Cannon identify some bright green stains on serpentine as the basic sulfate of copper, brochantite.

Analcime: has been identified from the prehnite zone as white trapezohedra lining cavities in serpentine. I made the identification using simple chemical means which excluded them as being white garnets and confirming their chemical behavior relative to known analcimes from other localities.

Stilbite: is probable as very small (1 mm) single crystals and clusters with the analcime. These were initially brought to my attention by "Eagle eye" George Reimherr. Identification was by visual and simple chemical tests. This brings the number of species at Rockville quarry to **63**.

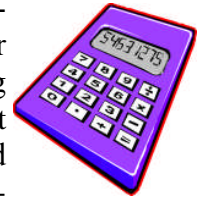
**SALE** In 2004 Frenis Hoffman had material for sale. At that time he had for sale a Star Diamond 10" Saw, model TS-10 with automatic feed, vice, Plexiglas cover, 2 blades and 1/3 hp Motor, excellent condition, various small tumblers, sizes 1.5 to 3 #, 3 fluorescent lights, several sizes of gold mining pans, alcohol burner, gem epoxy, chain, jewelry boxes, diamond saw lubricant, cut stones, bolo cords, rings and necklaces, several pounds of tumbled gemstones, many pounds of rough gemstones for tumbling or slabbing, amethyst, lace agate, unakite, fluorescent minerals, chrysoprase, rhodonite, deweylite, rhodochrosite, green agate, moss agate, tree agate, snake skin agate, pink & green agate, garnets, Mexican assortment, Brazilian assortment, Botswana agate, rose quartz, moonstone, turquoise, black opal, amber, emeralds, thunder eggs, black coral, shark's teeth, grinding and polishing powders, ultrasonic cleaner, jewelry findings, faceted stones, etc. Exactly what is left is unknown but he has now moved to Frederick and lives at 500 East Patrick Street, which is much closer. His phone is 301 694 8143 and his E Mail is <[fwh1920@intergate.com](mailto:fwh1920@intergate.com)>. If you are interested contact him for specifics.



**BE SAFE - BE WELL****Calculated Risk**

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

We often use the term “calculated risk” but I wonder if we always think about what we are saying. The term “calculated risk” should be clearly defined in our mind. In order to do this for myself I reverted to the training I received in elementary school which involves “breaking down” anything we are not clear about. The risk part we probably understand but what about the “calculated”? Do we think through the issue or just use the term to justify things that did not go well but obviously could not be our fault. Surprisingly enough I think we really do consider potential outcomes more often than we think we do. I think we often look at a situation in terms of risk vs. reward. Some examples I would suggest include:



The situation that may arise when we are cutting a cabochon from a stone. One of my mentors, the one and only E. T. Pike always said, “don’t cut any garbage”. He meant if a stone shows evidence of a crack or a fissure, don’t use it. Now if it is the only stone you have of a particular color or pattern, you may want to take that “calculated risk”.



You have assembled your torch outfit and are preparing to solder or heat something. You smell the faintest whiff of acetylene and think that you will not take time to soap test all of the joints. This is NOT a good calculated risk. Don’t shortcut safety procedures.

Another tool we might employ is probability. What are the odds that something unplanned and undesirable will happen? Think about the following situations:

You are on a field trip and the weather conditions indicate that we might experience a small storm with lightning. Do you really want to tempt fate or do you follow the safer route and take cover. You are thinking this is a “no brainer” and all of us will take cover but you are wrong. Many people do not follow the recommended guidelines and become statistics.

You are rock hunting in a dry wash in a desert area and notice that it is raining in the nearby mountains. Do you head for higher ground or decide that a flash flood is so unlikely that you will just continue digging?

You are soldering and you are using flux that you found at a garage sale. You know that some fluxes are not user friendly but this one looks a little like something you have used before. Are you willing to gamble that the fumes are not dangerous?



You do not have the proper tool to cut, pry or shape something in your shop or, even worse, you do not have at hand the appropriate eye protection. Is this a chance you are willing to take? Have we not all heard that we should use the right tool for the job?

We all know that some rocks can be hazardous because of the chemical composition of the rock. (We are not talking about those we find at our favorite rock shop that can be hazardous to our wealth!) There are so many beautiful specimens that contain some bad stuff like arsenic, we all need to learn more. I am in the process of gathering some of this sort of information because I KNOW that there is so much that I do not know.

There is an old country expression that says that we have “not touched the hem of the garment” and I have only begun to touch the issue of calculated risk. My closing admonition is the we must THINK and try to avoid doing the stupid things that will hurt us.

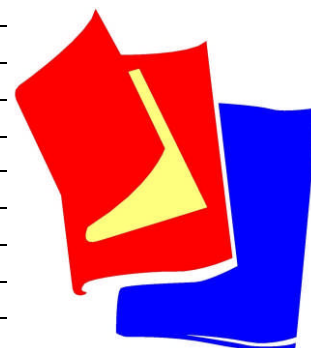
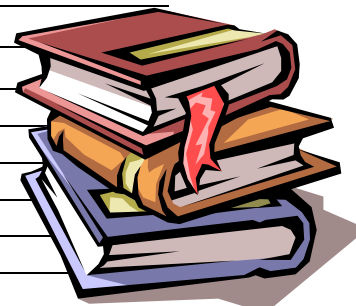


As I sit here and type this message I admire my hands and realize that I always have cuts, burns, abrasions and contusions and I know that most of them resulted from inattention (which is a 35 cent for stupidity). So, I am not just preaching to the choir. I am just as guilty as many of you.

**A**fter many years of faithful duty with the US Forest Service, their beloved fire prevention mascot was unceremoniously “retired.” Still in the prime of his life and bearing one of the world’s most recognizable faces, he quickly found work as a spokesman for the world’s leading exporter of diamonds. He’s now working as “Smokey DeBeers.”

**LIBRARY** More Society library contents are listed here for you to see. You can ask the librarian, Jonathan Harris to check out any of the books listed. Call Jonathan at 301 545 0808 or send him an E Mail at <jgharris7@comcast.net>. Use it or Lose it!

	<b>Research Publications</b>
Mineralogy	The Mineralogy and Petrology of Intrusive Triassic Diabase at Goose Creek, VA
	Serpentinite and Rodingite in the Hunting Hill Quarry, Mont. Co., MD
Withington	Geology-Its Role in the Development and Planning of Metropolitan Washington
Ridky, editor	Field Excursions to D.C.'s Urban Geology
	<b>Pamphlets and leaflets</b>
Archeology	Maryland Archeology: Journey Through Time
Collecting	Collecting Rocks (USGS)
	Illustrated Guide to Common Rocks
	Suggestions for Prospecting
Ryerson	Rock Hound's Guide to Connecticut 1968
Hiller	Connecticut Mines and Minerals 1971
	Use and Conservation of Minerals
Dinosaurs	Dinosaurs in Maryland
Earthquake	Earthquakes
	Earthquakes in Maryland
	Our Changing Continent
	Safety and Survival in an Earthquake
	The Interior of the Earth
	The San Andreas Fault
	The Severity of an Earthquake
	Engineering Geology
	Instrumentation for Today and Tomorrow
Fossils	Calvert Cliffs Maryland
	Fossils, Rocks, and Time
	Miocene Sharks Teeth of Calvert County
	Museum and Fossil Pit (Hampton, VA)
	Trip Guide to Calvert County, MD
Gem Stones	Gem Making as a Hobby
	Gem Stones (Bureau of Mines)
	Gem Stones (Bureau of Mines) Bulletin 556
	Gem Stones (Bureau of Mines) Bulletin 675
	Natural Gemstones
Maps	Helping Your Child Learn Geography
	Cartography at the U.S. Geological Survey
	Finding Your Way with Map and Compass
	Geologic Maps: Portraits of the Earth
	Geological Highway Map Northeastern Region
	Topographic Mapping
Miscellaneous	Building Stones of Maryland
Geology	Deserts (USGS)
	Geology of Caves
	Geysers (USGS)
	Landforms of the United States
	List of Publications of Maryland Geological Survey



**HELLO! I'M BAAACK**

Yep, I'm ready to return to my delving through "Rockhounters" of years past to recall activities of days gone by. But first, I want to express my thanks to everyone for their wishes, prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls while I was rendered hors de combat by a couple of misaligned vertebrae. They now are back in their proper order thanks to the skillful insertion of a piece of titanium (the orthopedist assured me I wouldn't set off bells when I went through a metal detector), and I now am feeling great. Back in October I had just begun writing about the doings of 1988, working my way to March's program. Do you remember what it was? If you replied, "Member Fred Schaefermeyer talking about zeolites," you were correct. Well, as usually happens, the week-end after March's meeting was taken up with our annual show, and again, as usual, it was reported to have been a success. Treasurer Gladys Fuller even reported that one Workshop participant gave a \$5 donation in appreciation of that "hands-on" feature.



April's meeting was preceded by a field trip to an old friend, Rockville Quarry; however, it was not well attended as but 12 members showed up. Two persons who participated were Fred Schaefermeyer and Dian Beckman who placed specimens of Chrysotile and Prehnite on the month's Show Table. The meeting's speaker was Robert Virta, whose subject was "Asbestos: Production, Industrial Uses, and Environmental Concerns." He gave an interesting and detailed report, ending with a comparison of deaths due to asbestos and tobacco, the former 1 to 7 per 100,000, the latter 8,000 per 100,000. These are 1987 figures; I don't know what they are now, but they should assure anyone going into Rockville Quarry of minimal danger. Thirteen new members were accepted at April's meeting, one of whom, George Reimherr, still is with us. Hooray, George!

The speaker at May's meeting was Skip Cunningham, a geologist at USGS, who gave a presentation on "Gold Deposits of the Orient." Using slides, he took the audience on a tour of the gold deposits in southern China. These remote areas have rock occurrences similar to those of the gold producing parts of our western states, particularly Nevada, where fine-grained gold is found in black rock. Wendell Mohr introduced Montgomery Blair HS senior Andrea Smith, whom he and Lou Williams had selected as winner of the Society's award at the Montgomery Area Science Fair. Andrea's project, "Sligo Creek: Chemical, Statistical, and Topographical Profile," considered the Creek's water quality, concentrating on areas between University Blvd. and Maple Ave. Takoma Park had been doing tests for some time but had been unable to pinpoint problem spots. Testing had been sporadic because of costs. Andrea was able to carry out conclusive tests for two years! These enabled her to spot the major pollution areas. In addition to receiving the award, Andrea also was the evening's door prize pick, winning an amethyst specimen! A May field trip had been scheduled to the Virginia Trap Rock Quarry at Leesburg but had to be canceled when word was received that the quarry had been closed to visitors. An indoor trip was announced to Sherwood High School with the only equipment needed being a fat wallet. Yes, this was a sale of materials that had been donated to the School, including minerals, fossils, cabochons, and cutting material. All proceeds were to go to the School's Science Dept. No reports of any spectacular finds. That's all for today; I'm glad to be back. Have a nice summer. Jack Busch, writer

**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Scott Braley**, spoke on "Pegmatites Of Southwestern Maine" at the May 24th Meeting of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. He donated many micro specimens.

**Rod Towers** and **George Durland** represented the GLMSMC at the Rockville Consortium for Science Inc.'s Rockville Science Day, May 7th, at Montgomery College. They reported a good turnout and lots of interest in the 32 Exhibits/Demonstrations including robots, rockets, chemical reactions, biology, reptiles homing pigeons, archeology, solar, electric, hybrid cars, recycling, sun spots, and many more.

**Wendell Mohr** spoke about minerals to thirteen 2nd graders at the Hebrew Day Institute in Silver Spring on May 17th. Kids liked the free samples given.



(Continued on Page 8)

**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES (Continued)**

**Jonathan Ertman** and **Fred Parker** represented the GLMSMC at Rockville Quarry's Earth Day event, on Saturday, May 6th at the Quarry. Approximately 4000 people attended, including many local homeowners. We represented the Society with a table featuring minerals from the quarry, handouts on its unique geology, and photographs from the March Show. We fielded lots of questions. There was a great deal of interest in the minerals of the quarry and perhaps a dozen people expressed interest in joining our group and were given membership information. In addition, we met several corporate managers from the quarry and relayed to them what the Society did for the community as a whole. Based on their feedback, we believe that quarry management has a better and more positive view of what mineral the mineral collecting community is all about.

Contributed by Fred Parker



**PERSONAL FIELD TRIP REPORT** I took a field trip to a two tourmaline mines and a gem show in San Diego California in mid April. The Stewart mine was OK, expensive, and I had better luck with the buckets from 2002. The Stewart mine web site is <<http://www.mmmgems.com/stewart/>>. According to the owners of the Oceanview mine, the Stewart is presently flooded. To get to both mines, you start at Oceanview CA and head east and up. The rendezvous is at the Pala casino parking lot. From there, we caravan and climb probably another 1,000 ft. At the parking lot is a huge pile of probably 20-30 tons (Big dump truck size) load of dirt, rocks, etc. We get a 1 inch and a ½ inch screen, water trough and buckets. Everyone attacks the pile and starts shaking. The couple next to me have a pile of dust and dirt twice the size of mine and get some nice Aqua. There is a huge amount of black Schorl that I am constantly throwing away. I obtained about 25-28 grams of pink Tourmaline, a 9.8 gram single piece of Kunzite, several pieces of facetable green and blue Tourmaline for about 45 grams of useable facetable material, all the pink Tourmaline was included to some amount. It was a very enjoyable time and several families were there screening for gems. If you get to the San Diego, area I recommend it. The Oceanview mine web site is <<http://digforgems.com/>>.

Thanks to Robert Winfield for his report.

**SPACE MYSTERY** NASA scientists have a new mystery to solve: How did materials formed by fire end up on the outermost reaches of the solar system, where temperatures are the coldest? The materials were contained in dust samples captured when the robotic Stardust spacecraft flew past the comet Wild 2 in 2004. A 100-pound capsule tied to a parachute returned the samples to Earth in January. The samples include minerals such as anorthite, which is made up of calcium, sodium, aluminum and silicate; and diopside, made of calcium magnesium and silicate. Such minerals only form in very high temperatures. "That's a big surprise. People thought comets would just be cold stuff that formed out where things are very cold," said NASA curator Michael Zolensky. "It was kind of a shock to not just find one but several of these, which implies they are pretty common in the comet." The discovery raises questions about where the materials in comets form, he added. One theory is that particles from the outer reaches of the solar system slowly move toward the sun, where they are set ablaze and shot back out. A scientific model once suggested that might be a natural occurrence, but it wasn't accepted because materials tend to cluster in zones the farther they are from the sun, Zolensky said. If the model were true, materials would mix more, the NASA scientist said. "It raises a question of why we still see zoning in the asteroid belt. It is a big mystery now," Zolensky said. "It's kind of really exciting." He said it is also possible that the comet particles could have been formed in another solar system and catapulted into our solar system. To determine where the particles originated, scientists are now studying their isotopic makeup. About 150 scientists worldwide have been studying the dust since it arrived. During the \$212 million mission, the Stardust spacecraft looped around the sun three times to capture the interstellar and comet dust. The comet dust was captured in a silicone-based material contained in a tennis racket-sized collector mitt. The mother ship, which has traveled nearly 3 billion miles, remains in permanent orbit around the sun. The next time it flies by Earth will be in January 2009. Don Brownlee, a University of Washington astronomer who is the mission's principal scientist, said in a few weeks or months he and his colleagues hope to know more. "It depends on whether the isotopic composition indicates these grains are from our solar system or from another star," he said. "It's a real exciting mystery story. So stay tuned." On the Net: <[www.nasa.gov/stardust](http://www.nasa.gov/stardust)> By Pam Easton Space Ctr., Houston 03/13/06





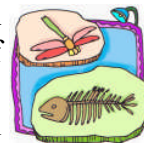
**WEB SITES** Let me make a brief case for these sites

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr

**Elements Magazine**, <<http://www.elementsmagazine.org/>>, is The International Magazine of Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Petrology. It is issued bi-monthly. Individual hard copy subscriptions are not available, being obtained only through one of the eight professional organizations who jointly cooperate to publish the magazine. To view, go to the issue. Just below, click on "Download magazine in pdf format". The articles may be more technical than you ever wanted, and they are long files, a terror for dial-up internet connections. The March, June, and December 2005 issues were intriguing to me.



**Lang's Fossils (And Meteorites)**, <<http://www.langsfossils.com/>> by Allan and Iris Langheinrich (Lang), of Ilion NY, is a commercial endeavor. Claiming to be the world's foremost supplier of museum grade eurypterid fossils, these and many other species are for sale (No endorsement here). Click and see Teeth, Copal, Trilobites, Bones, Marine fossils, and Gift Shop. Enter the Museum of Paleontology, enlarging pictures by double clicking. See the fantastic Lang's Quarry.



Education and News and Expeditions sections are worthy of note. "Meteorites for Sale" leads to the Meteorite Museum, and the world famous Peekskill meteorite car. The last group excavating at the quarry pit found that someone has stolen the Porta-Potty. The police were called to investigate but leads were few, They had nothing to go on.



**Mine Engineer**, <<http://www.mine-engineer.com/>>, offers far-ranging information. I found "Mining Information" to be fascinating with vast coverage. Other topics are equally wide-ranging. Spot market metal prices are even featured. Several broken links exist but by the time you absorb the educational material that is available, you will nearly qualify as a mine engineer yourself. A mine is a terrible thing to waste. The Mine Occupational Health and Safety regulations are now out on CD-ROM or DVD-ROM. It is titled How 2.0.

### **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

**August 5-6.** Sat., 10 AM-6 PM, Sun., 10 AM-5 PM, the 57th Annual Gem Show, hosted by The Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Washington, DC. Note new location: Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, 9101 Rockville Pike. Adults \$6, Seniors \$5, Children under 16 free with a paid admission. Free Parking. See website for directions to show <<http://www.GLMSDC.com>>.

**August 18-20**, AFMS Convention and show, Nashville, TN, billed as "Rockin' in Music City". AFMS meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 15 (Uniform Rules Comm.) and 16 (AFMS Annual Meeting). Field trips and other activities are also being planned. Complete information, including schedule, registration and exhibitor forms are in the May AFMS Newsletter, <<http://www.amfed.org>>.

**September 16-17**, 41st Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club. <[www.rockandmineral.org](http://www.rockandmineral.org)>. Note new location: Central Dauphin Middle School, Locust Lane and South Houcks Road, Harrisburg PA.

**September 23-24**, 42nd Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutter's Guild of Baltimore, Howard County Fairgrounds, MD Route 32 at I-70, West Friendship MD.

**November 18-19**, Sat., 9 AM-6 PM, Sun., 10 AM-5 PM, 40th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and the 56th EFMLS Convention sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. Southern Florida Fairgrounds, West Palm Beach FL. EFMLS Annual Meeting Friday, Nov. 17th

**OTHER CLUB MEETINGS** David J. Bohaska, formerly with the Calvert Marine Museum, now with the Dept. of Paleobiology, Smithsonian Institution will speak on Fossil Whales, Porpoises, and Dolphins at the Southern MD Rock & Mineral Club meeting June 27th at 7 PM at the MNCPPC Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift Rd. Clinton MD.

### **BOOKS**

Can You Tell A Book By Its Author?

Twin Crystals By Ima Dubble,

Mountain Climbing By Andover Hand,

Mineral Collecting in the Rain By Wayne Dwops,

Why 4WD Jeeps Stop By M. T. Tank

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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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