

THE ROCKHOUNDER



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OCTOBER

2006

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. is on Monday, October 9 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 "Geologic Remote Sensing Using Spectral Data" presented by Dr. John Mars of the USGS. The remaining four boxes of Paul and Jennie Smith specimens will be for sale. There will be a silent auction of material donated by Bob Burr, including some archeological specimens from Maine.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Will meet on Monday October 16 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 New Members:

CESSNA, Jeff, 12116 Clifton Dr., Silver Spring MD 20904-1941,
jcessna@NIST.gov, 301 680 7963

Changes:

BRALEY, Paul 7/97 (Son of Scott Braley)

DIETZ, Andy, New phone 804-752-8383

PARKER, Fred, 1946 Crossing Stone Ct., Frederick MD 21702-6100, Parkermineral@aol.com, 301 662 0751

RITCHIE, Lois, Phone 717 944 1528

SEERY, Paul, 507 Calvin Lane, Rockville MD 20851-1174, 301 367 9225 Delete E Mail

WELLS, Inga, and BUYNAK, Michael, 413 Tannery Road, Athens PA 18810. Telephone & E Mail same



DUES Our By-laws state "Any member in arrears as of Oct. 15th shall forfeit membership". If you have not paid this will be the **last** Rockhounds you will receive. A red star on the address label of mailed newsletters indicates non-payment (As of Oct. 1st). No other notification will be made to those getting newsletters by E Mail only. If not already done, pay for your Single membership at \$15 per year, or Family membership (Up to 2 adults and children under 18 years of age) at \$20 per year at the October meeting or send to: Membership Chairperson Nancy Ballard, 16812 Baederwood Lane, Derwood MD 20855-2011, 301 926 7374. She will mail your membership card(s) back to you if you send her a self addressed stamped envelope otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the next regular meeting. Club membership is a requirement for attending most Society field trips.

GET WELL THOUGHTS Fritz Beckman was at the Gem Cutter's Guild Show at the Howard County Fairgrounds. After a year of extreme illness, and losing a foot as a complication of Diabetes, he is now managing with a wheelchair and a caregiver. He is still bright and as sharp as ever.

Lillian Turner, friend of the Society, who provides exhibits and a junior award for our Show, suffered a severe stroke about two months ago and, after a hospital stay, is now in the Hebrew Home for rehab.

DEADLINE for the November Rockhounds is October 31, 2006

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ENJOY!	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Members with Birthdays in October: Al Bullock, Kenneth Carter, Thomas Caton, Andy Dietz, Jonathan Ertman, Arthur Goldberg, Stephanie Hald, Charles M. P. Hyland, Charles J. Hyland, Ross Koby, Sue Krug, John Kuehn, Aidan McElravy, Annie Shaw, Jim Michaelis, Louis Van Rafelghem, Therese Van Rafelghem, Barbara Wuerstlin.



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES September 11, 2006. President Braley called the meeting to order at 7:47 PM. There were about 40 people in attendance. Don Turner announced that he needs help for the Show workshop to cut and dop cab performs.

Allison Post, Montgomery Area Science Fair winner, gave a talk on her project, "The Power of Dirt". She collected dirt (Clay, wetlands, stream and sand) from areas around Montgomery County, added water, and measured the pH and changes over time, for days to weeks. pH rose for all except for the sand. Eventually all ended up at pH 5 to 6, the result of CO₂ absorption. Jennifer Wingard, who judged along with Joshua King, presented Allison the Society membership, and an award of \$50. Jeffrey Post was contacted by George Durland and is going to the Denver G&M Show and will select specimens for our Society to choose for donation to the Smithsonian mineral collection.

Tim Rose of the National Museum of Natural History presented a slide program about the National Museum of the American Indian project to collect stones of about 1 cubic meter size for cardinal direction markers. Rocks were collected from the four corners of the Western Hemisphere as a gift from the local indigenous peoples. From the North came 4 billion year old rock, Acosta gneiss from far northern latitudes near Yellowknife North West Territories, Canada, now a land of gold and diamonds. From the South, the southern tip of Tierra del Fuego came a Cretaceous Gneiss. From the West came an accretionary boulder, about 350 years old, from the big island Hawaii, born in a lava flow, and a "Guest" on loan for 20 years. From the East, a rock was selected from the Rock Creek area in D.C. until the Feds intervened. A white quartzite alternate was selected from Sugarloaf Mountain, Frederic County MD, a historic Indian site. These four rocks are placed on the 4 points of the compass around the museum and are unmarked. The talk ended at 9pm.

Reconvening the meeting at 9:18pm after a break, a moment of silence was observed for Steve McElravy who perished in a commercial plane crash in Lexington Ky.

Jeff Cessna, who is interested in fossils and collecting, was voted to membership. Visitors Andy Celmer, and Kevin and Pat Byrne were recognized.

Anita Lizas is at Wildacres. No Field Trips are scheduled at present. A few members visited the quarry at St. Hilaire Quebec on July 1st.

Wendell announced further info on Meckley Quarry open house; Sale by Bill Hawkins on Sep. 30 from 2-5 PM of Lapidary material, machinery tools etc. at 15709 Sherwood Avenue, Laurel MD; Free mineral identification by class of Dr. Sarah Penniston-Dorland of the Univ. of MD in the spring; Upcoming shows and Quartz dig at Mt Ida, Arkansas Oct. 12-14; Our show will be March 10-11 in 2007, **start exhibit preparations now**; Clearwater Nature Center is holding jewelry making classes on various dates.

Nancy Ballard reported for Juan Proaño, Treasurer, on vacation in Italy that we are solvent. Scott Braley said that we now have a web site, a work in progress by Jonathan Harris. See <<http://www.glmsmc.com/>>. The meeting was adjourned 9:55 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES Of the Meeting of September 18, 2006 The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Braley. Board members present: Scott Braley, Wendell Mohr, Joel Rosen, Rod Towers, and Bob Winfield. Members present: Dave and Nancy Ballard. Scott had received a communication from Frances Gallegos saying that she is leaving the Society due to difficulty of night driving. Nancy Ballard volunteered to be Membership Chair Pro-Tem. Years ago members paid dues directly to the Treasurer, but this was not agreed on now since Juan Proaño was not in attendance. Show Exhibits Chair will need to be filled. Scott will try to arrange a ride for Frances to regular meetings.

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES Continued from Page 2. The Society web site at <www.glmsmc.com> is a work in progress by Jonathan Harris. We will need to de-activate the currently active club web site by Lowell Litton, no longer a member.



Field trips: The possibility of hiring a bus or van to go to localities or museums (Such as VPI, Robbins Gallery, Univ. of DE, and American Museum of Natural History) at Club expense was discussed. Wendell has prepared field trip directions to area sites. The EFTA (Eastern Field Trip Alliance) was discussed, however providing 3 trips/year by our club open to all of EFTA is very difficult given the climate at quarries.

The Board needs to write a formal letter to the Board of the Montgomery County Fairgrounds about our treatment on dates for the 2007 show. The projection screen we purchased for use at the Senior center has gone missing, and we need to try to retrieve it.

There is a small amount of material Donated by Bob Burr, for silent auction including some archeological things. Remaining 4 boxes of Paul and Jennie Smith specimens will be for sale at the October meeting. Smith sales so far yielded \$170 first sale and \$164 (Amended to \$184.75 Sept 25th) in September. Joel will see if Linda Jenkins material is still available.

Rod announced the speaker for the October meeting.

Joel stated that there are specimens for prizes through June 2007. He requests authorization for further purchases at the NOVA show. The issue will be considered at the November Board meeting when Juan returns. Scott opened discussion about having perhaps 4 members open their houses to show their collections, possibly along with a progressive "Dinner" (Snacks only), on a Saturday.

Director and Delegate and alternates need to be selected for the EFMLS Convention in Palm Beach FL, the issue will be handled at the October regular meeting.

At the November Board meeting we will discuss donations to the AFMS Endowment Fund, AFMS Scholarship Fund, EFMLS Eastern Federation Fund, and American Lands Access Assn. We should hear from Jeffrey Post, after his visit to the Denver G&M Show, about specimens we may pick for donation to the National Museum of Natural History from our Society.

There was no interest in participating in the mineral ID project at the Univ. of MD. Scott said size and destructive tests are a factor for himself.

There are openings for Elected Officers as well as other positions. Scott will call people about continuing service. The Newsletter will carry an appeal for volunteers. The Board will function as a Nominating Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM. Meeting Notes by Wendell Mohr

SEPTEMBER SHOW TABLE:

* = Self Collected or made



Scott Braley: Beryl Cast with Quartz crystals*, Fluorapatite*, Emmons Mine, Greenwood, ME.

Heather Felsen: Quartz and hematite, Ontario.

Jonathan Harris: Specimen identity to be determined*, Prehnite* Rockville Crushed Stone, Rockville MD.

Pat Jayne: Pink jasper, unknown locality.

Chuck Mason: Quartz cast of formerly enclosed unknown mineral*, Wurtenbaker Hill, Fred. County, MD.

Rory McElravy: Amazonite, Morefield Gem Mine Amelia, VA.

Wendell Mohr: 2006 silver mint proof state quarters, U.S. Mint.

Rod Towers: Microscope and specimens.

Robert Winfield: 2.8 carat faceted amethyst "Checkerboard heart" cut from Jeff Graham's site.

See <<http://www.faceters.com/>>

Jennifer Wingard: Amethyst, PA.

Paul Vance: Jade cabochons. Paul also had printed pass-outs about his Jade polishing tricks of the trade, learned from years of practical experience.

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SEPTEMBER SHOW TABLE: Continued from Page 3. Joel Rosen: Rhodochrosite, pyrite, fluorite, quartz and tetrahedrite, Sweet Home Mine, Alma CO. Joel told of his experiences going to Dinosaur National Monument,

Utah section, and finding the main building with fossil exposures closed. Here is the National Park Service's story: "Why did you close the Dinosaur Quarry Visitor Center?" "The visitor center was built in 1957 on unstable soil, and the building has had structural problems for many years. A formal monitoring program began in May 2006. The detailed inspection identified some previously unknown conditions that present serious life, safety and health hazards. Because of those concerns, park management made the difficult decision that the prudent course of action would be to close the building until all alternatives can be evaluated rather than continue to put park visitors and employees at risk." C'est la vie! For more about the locality see <<http://www.nps.gov/dino/>>.



FIELD TRIPS Open only to Society Members.

September 30, Saturday, Medford Quarry near Westminster MD, 7:45 AM. Allow one hour to drive from mid Montgomery County (Gaithersburg). Take MD 27 North through Damascus, Mount Airy, and Taylorsville. Alternative #1. Turn left at an intersection of Kate Wagner Road (On the right) and Route 27. There is a traffic light at the intersection. Turn LEFT on Chapel Road. You will cross Old Westminster Road, 0.5 miles, and Western Chapel Road, another 0.3 miles. You will go down a hill. Another 0.4 miles, at the next intersection, turn left on Stone Chapel Road. There is an entrance to the quarry in a short distance, 0.5 miles, to the right. It is at the sign that says "LaFarge North America Medford Quarry". Go on the quarry road. You will cross one truck road in 0.2 miles, and another after another 0.1 miles. At the next Road, another 0.1 miles (There is a weigh station on the right at this road) take a left to the parking lot. Meet the designated time. Alternative #2. Turn left on Nicodemus Road from MD 27. Turn right at Bowersox Road. You will come to an intersection right after a stone Church on the left. Turn left here on Stone Chapel Road.. Go to the Quarry entrance on the left, continue as above.



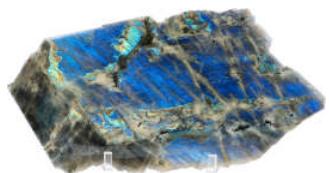
MINERALS: The quarry is famous for Calcite crystals and fluorescent purple Calcite. Other minerals include: Malachite, Pyrite, Todorokite, Manganese dendrites, Chalcopyrite, Veriform Chlorite, and others. The bulk of the rock is Marble in white, purple or pink or rose, black and yellow.

October 14, Saturday, Martin Marietta's Pinesburg Quarry near Williamsport MD, 8:15 AM. It is about 1 hour 25 minutes from mid Montgomery County. Directions: Take Route I 270 north to I 70 west to I 81 south. From there, It is a short distance to Exit 2 (US 11). (Washington County Map book shows it is about 1 mile from I 80 to the turnoff for US 11.) Route 11 is Potomac Street. Take Rte 11 South. At the 3rd traffic light, turn right and go over the bridge. The right turn is on Conococheague, otherwise known as MD 68. (There will be a Cannery on the left and a brickyard on the right.) Take the road to the left before the railroad tracks (Bottom Road). Go 2.3 miles on Bottom Road. You will see stone piles on left and the office on the right. Turn into the visitors parking area on the right.

October 22, Sunday, Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD, 8:15 AM. \$5 collecting fee. Find your best way to the intersection of Shady Grove Road with Darnestown Road. (From I-270 you may take I-370 west to Great Seneca Highway, where you turn left, to Darnestown Road, where you turn right) Go North (West at this point) on Darnestown Road. Turn Left at the stop light at Travilah Road. Go 0.9 miles and turn left on Piney Meetinghouse Road. Go 0.1 miles to the quarry entrance on the right. Enter the property and stay right and meet at the office building.

Safety Requirements all quarry trips: Steel-toed boots, hard hats, safety glasses/goggles, signed release form. For further information on trips listed, contact Field Trip Chair Anita Lizas James, Phone 301 652 5527, E Mail <johnjames04@comcast.net>. If she is not available, contact Wendell Mohr, <wmohr@erols.com>, 301 926 7190, or Fred Parker, 240 446 2183, <Parkermineral@aol.com>.

SEPTEMBER PRIZES: Junior Prize: Labradorite, Madagascar, was won by Zachary Lupuloff. Prize for the Show Table: Boulder opal, Barcoo River, Queensland, Australia was won by Rory McElravy. General Door Prize: Prehnite Pendant, was won by Bill Jones. I need to take one of the ever-winning juniors along with me to Las Vegas!



SAFETY **HAMMER SAFETY** by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chairman

- ◆ Hammers used by rock hounds come in every size, type, and construction. They include rock hammers, brick layer's hammers (Also known as mason's hammers), Blacksmith's (Sledge) hammers, machinist's peen Hammers, setting hammers, lead or copper faced hammers, trimmer's hammers, and welder's hammers. Rawhide, rubber, and tinner's mallets are also used. I have also seen napping hammers (a 3 pound high carbon steel hammer with tapering faces used for forming stones for road construction) and railroad track mauls, used by rockhounds in the field.
- ◆ General safe practices for hammers are:
 1. Always select the proper type, size, and weight of hammer for the task.
 2. Always wear eye protection, safety shoes, and protective clothing.
 3. Always strike a hammer blow squarely, avoiding glancing blows, and over or under strikes. A hammer's striking face should be parallel with the surface being struck.
 4. When striking a chisel, punch, or wedge, the striking face should be 3/8" larger than the struck face of the tool. Both the striking face of the hammer and struck face of the tool should be free of oil.
 5. Do not strike another hammer with a hammer.
 6. Do not strike a harder surface with a hard surfaced hammer.
 7. Never use a hammer or struck tool with dents, cracks, mushrooming, or excessive wear. Do not redress a hammer head-replace it.
 8. Replace worn or damaged handles. A qualified individual should replace hammer handles. Most hardware stores will replace hammer handles for a nominal fee. They can also provide a rubber sleeve for sledge hammers, which will prevent handle damage adjacent to the head.
 9. Be aware of others in the vicinity of the hammers arc of swing and ensure that they are also wearing safety eye protection, safety shoes, and protective clothing.
- ◆ Bricklayer's or mason's hammers are designed for setting or splitting bricks, masonry tile, and concrete blocks. Never use them to strike or drive tools, such as Chisels. The blade of a bricklayer's hammer should be kept sharp by redressing at a 40 degree angle with a bench grinder. Keep the metal cool while grinding by quenching often in water, which will protect the blades tempering.
 - ◆ Hand drilling hammers are used with chisels, star drills, and hardened nails. Never use common nail (claw) hammers for striking tools, such as chisels, as they are designed for driving unhardened nails and their shape, depth of face, and balance make them unsuitable for other uses.
 - ◆ Machinist's peen hammers (ball, cross, or straight) are designed for striking chisels, drills, and punches and riveting, straightening, and shaping metal.
- ◆ Blacksmith's, or sledge hammers, are designed for striking wood, metal, and concrete or stone, depending on size, weight, and shape.
- ◆ When using a hammer, grip the handle near the end where it is designed for gripping. This will give the best control and impact with the least effort. Watch your hands, shins, and feet. Wear gloves, a long sleeve shirt, apron, safety glasses with face shield, and high lacing safety shoes for protection from flying debris and sharp shards.
 - ◆ When storing hammers for a period of time, lightly lubricate metal parts, but wipe any oil or grease from rubber mallets or rubber handle grips to prevent damage to the hammer. Before using a hammer, wipe away all oil from the striking surfaces.



• Maryland •
PICK 4U



❖ A young lady GLSMSC member got hitched. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress. ❖

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Rockville Senior Center, Azalea Room, November 14, 10:30-Noon, Professor McDermott, of Montgomery College, will discuss the “**Current Wave of Natural Disasters**”: Tidal waves, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tornados. Register for free course 19985 by two weeks before talk. Information: 240 314 8620 Web Site: <www.rockvillemd.gov>.

Audubon Naturalist Programs: For information and registration call 301 652 9188, Extension 16, or see web site <www.audubonnaturalist.org> for each of the first two sessions:

October 15, Sunday, 10 AM–2 PM, **Geology of Seneca Creek, for adults.** Members \$21, Non-members \$29.

November 5, Sunday, 10 AM-3 PM, **Geology of Harper’s Ferry, for adults.** Members \$23, Non-members \$32.

Montgomery County Recreation Dept./ Montgomery Parks M-NCPPC Register for programs on Web <<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/rec/fall2006.pdf>> or automated phone “STARline” 240 777 8277, or get booklet at Library and mail in form:

Stone Sculpture For age 18 and up, by Ann Ruppert. 10 sessions beginning Thursdays Oct. 4th or Oct. 5th, 7-9 PM at Concord Center. Fee \$145.

Advanced Wire Work, Age 13 and up, 2 sessions, starting Wednesday October 11, 7-9 PM, Bauer Drive CC, Fee \$40. \$15 material fee. Donna Weeks instructor.

Jewelry’s Finishing Touches, Age 13 and up, 2 sessions, starting Wednesday November 8, 7-9 PM, Bauer Drive CC, Fee \$40. \$10 material fee. Donna Weeks instructor.

Geology in Your Own Back Yard, Age 6-12 years, 1 session, Wednesday Nov. 1, 2-3 PM. Brookside Nature Center. Fee \$5.

Geology Rocks, Age 8-13 years, 1 session, Friday November 3, 3:45-4:45 PM, Meadowside Nature Center. Naturalist Melanie Marshall. Fee \$5.

Glen Echo Park Information 301 634 2222 or Web <www.glenechopark.org>. Registration by mail, with check, cash, money order , or credit card or walk in. There is a \$10 Registration fee added to class fee:

Beginning Metalsmithing, Age 15 & up. Four session, Saturday, Feb 3-24, 2007, 10 AM-2 PM. Class fee \$265. Instructor Deborah Dubois.

EVENTS

Annual Auction Meeting The Richmond Gem and Mineral Society, will meet at the University of Richmond Special Programs Building, Wednesday, Oct. 11. Meeting starts promptly at 7:00 PM. Bring your specimens early to setup. There are two categories: Totally donating proceeds to club or splitting proceeds between the donor and the club. Income helps keep their club running. Bring your specimens to sell and money to bid to purchase new specimens for your collection. Visitors are always welcome!



Another Auction The Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society holds an auction on Friday, October 13th, 7:30 PM (Viewing at 7 PM) at the Women’s Club of Catonsville. Refreshments are available. Directions: Get to the Baltimore beltway, I-695 by your most convenient route. Exit on MD 144, Frederick Road, going west from I-695 for four blocks to St. Timothy’s Lane. Turn right and go one block to the Woman’s Club, behind St. Timothy’s Church. Items include gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment.

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EVENTS Continued from Page 6

Fall Rock Swap The Richmond G & M Soc. invites visitors to swap or purchase mineral, gem, fossil, sea-shell, and lapidary specimens. Free, Indoors, Saturday, November 11, 2006, Hours: 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. At Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall, 1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond, VA. Parking in front of Hall. Swappers please label your specimens. For more information please contact: Murray Rosenberg, Swap Chairman 804 740-0019, E Mail <murrayrosenberg@cavtel.net> or Jim Doran RGMS President 804 288 8092. Use I-95 to Exit 79, to I-64 West. At Exit 181A go South on Parham Rd. 1.5 miles and turn left on East Ridge Rd. Church and Meeting Hall are about 400 ft. on right, across from Kroger's Market. Hall is at rear of parking lot on W. side of Church. To defray costs swappers are asked to donate specimen(s) for raffle and auction.

Anniversary Celebration The Calvert Marine Museum's 25th anniversary is Sat., November 11th. A symposium will summarize and update the current understanding of the geology and Miocene biota of Calvert Cliffs and area, and will be held at the Museum in Solomons, Maryland. Abstracts will be compiled and printed for the Symposium and published in Club's newsletter, The Ecphora. Registration Fee: \$30.00 per person. \$20.00/person for CMM Fossil Club members. \$15.00 for full-time students. Fee includes: A boxed lunch, a buffet supper, both AM and PM coffee/juice breaks, symposium abstracts copy, and Museum admission. Reduced Registration Fee of \$5.00/person includes: Both AM and PM coffee/juice breaks, symposium abstracts copy, and Museum admission. You need not register to attend symposium presentations only. The oral and poster sessions are free and open to the public! Currently there are 17, 15-minute presentations and 3 poster presentations. So a full day on the geology and paleontology of Calvert Cliffs! The Museum will open at 8:30 am for those who have not pre-registered and for those who have to pick up their registration envelopes. Presentations will begin at 10 AM and continue until about 4:30 PM.

Buffet dinner will be served in the Museum following the presentations. Staying overnight? Holiday Inn Select rate of \$76.00 plus tax. Contact the Solomons Holiday Inn directly at (800) 356.2009 ask for rooms held under "Calvert Marine Museum". Get Registration forms from Stephen Godfrey, Calvert Marine Museum, P.O. Box 97, Solomons, MD, USA 20688, or refer to Club web site <www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/events> for more information.



Our By-laws limit the term for officers other than Treasurer. Scott Braley has agreed to continue for his second term as President and Juan Proaño as Treasurer. Elections are at the November regular meeting. We urgently are seeking volunteers to continue functioning:

- Vice President (Program Chair)
- Secretary

Additional non-elective positions also desperately need to be filled:

- 2007 Show Chairman
- 2007 Show Exhibits Chairman
- Membership Chairman
- Historian (New position)

Wont YOU seriously consider giving of your time and talents to fill one of these important jobs? Reply to Scott Braley Phone 301 305 1193, or E Mail <ekbgsb@cox.net>

Volunteer

This message from the Board of Directors and we approve of the message!

I was going to begin this with a greeting to the next year covered by these ramblings, but first a correction must be made to something that appeared last month. Those of you who are familiar with QWERTY keyboards and Spellchecks can understand what happened. I had referred to a facility at Blue Plains in DC where diamonds of a sort allegedly had been made from sewer gas. The name of the facility is Waste Water Treatment Plant, not Waste Eater. Spellchecking the latter, a legitimate word, passed it by. No doubt there are plenty of bacteria at the Plant that could eat the waste but I don't think they were involved in the diamond-making process. OK, now that that's been cleared up --



HELLO, 1989! --And a big year it was, for it marked the 25th year of our founding! It began with newly elected President Juan Proaño calling January's meeting to order. His first actions after that were to turn his portfolios as Program Chair and Librarian over to Gordon Austin and Ron Day, respectively. The meeting continued with Mike Ellwood telling some more about the trip he and Kathy had taken to Wyoming during the summer. Mike displayed some very impressive fossil fish they had found. For the evening's program Gordon showed a video about emerald mining in Colombia. It was a very comprehensive showing, detailing not only the commercial aspect but also the "Scavenging" by the locals who hoped to find in the tailings a stone they could convert into cash. Although most of the dialog was in Spanish, English subtitles were provided, and what they couldn't tell, Juan translated. A cautionary word was offered: Don't buy anything from street vendors. Usually such "stones" are glass (Cut from 7-Up bottles, maybe?).

At February's meeting Gordon presented a double-header program. The first part was a video, "Mining Quartz Crystals", prepared by Don Burrow of Crystal City Inc. in Arkansas. Depicted was the work involved in obtaining the fabulous Arkansas quartz, from bulldozing and backhoeing, to washing the specimens in an oxalic acid solution to remove iron stains. (I recall my Mother using such solution to remove rust stains from my clothes, a no-no now.) The second portion of Gordon's program was one he had prepared himself, and was appropriate because of our upcoming show. He demonstrated the use of different materials, e.g., ceiling tile and Styrofoam, that are light weight and easy to cut, with which to line showcases. Both also can be covered with stretchy material that will fit smoothly. Other tips he offered were that background materials be of a neutral color, and that specimens be mounted at such heights that will make it easier for them to be seen. At the evening's Show Table Mike Ellwood had an example of Arkansas quartz and Gladys Fuller had a wide variety of Hawaiian lava-related material.

Fred Schaefermeyer was the featured speaker at the March meeting. His subject was Micromounting, at which he is an expert. He spoke of the advantages of pursuing this aspect of the hobby, some of which are: specimens can be stored in a small area; there is greater likelihood of obtaining "Perfect" crystals; and some minerals are available only as micros. He admitted there are disadvantages such as: little chance of micros being investments for the future, and the expense of buying a microscope. Fred concluded his presentation by demonstrating how to obtain small specimens from larger ones in such a manner to ensure keeping the minerals from being damaged, and then how to go about mounting them to best show them off.

Of course, the big event of March was the annual show, about which I'll write next month. In the meantime, think this over: for the lapidary, the flatter a lap is, the better; on the other hand, for pussycats and small children there's nothing better than a well-rounded lap.

Jack Busch

SYMPATHY In a tragic accident, the crash of an airplane in Lexington KY, member Steve McElravy lost his life on August 27th. Steve was an advisor at the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services in Rockville. He held a master's degree in social work from The University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. A long-time resident of Lincoln Nebraska, the family moved to Hagerstown four years ago. He had a son from a previous marriage, sons Rory and Aidan, the sons of Steve and his wife, Audrey. A step daughter, Michelle Muhs, is the daughter of Audrey. Steve, and family had been regularly attending at our meetings and fostered a climate of high interest for their sons. Rory was judged to have the best junior exhibit at our March show, and is fabulously lucky at winning door, show table, and junior prizes. Steve will be sorely missed and our support goes out to Audrey and the boys.

**WEB SITES****Fit For****The Handy Book of Precious****A King**

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr

Metals, is the commercial Canadian site of Handy & Harman, at <<http://www.handyharmancanada.com/hbpm/hbpm.htm>>. A long time purveyor of precious metals, and with considerable resources, this is great for jewelers and silversmiths. Featured are Gold, Platinum, and Silver, with sections on "The story of...", standards, fineness, karat system, alloying, workability, annealing, soldering, reference tables, and melting points etc. which you should find helpful. We do not endorse suppliers but there is a large section of products offered. These metals are very valuable. I sternly warned the guy not to steal my metals. He evidently didn't listen. Then I fired two warning shots. Right into his head



Mineral Collector.com, at <<http://home.online.no/~kai-helg/minerslamps.cfm>>, is the web site of Kai Helge Andersen of Kristiansund, Norway. If you will start at "About me" you can view each section and move along by selecting "More" at the end of each section. Some appealing photographic Subjects: Calcite from Visnes Kalk-og Marmorbrudd, a quarry in the Eide-area, Malachite (& Chrysocolla), Norwegian minerals of his collection, "Nature" photos, Quartz, Amethyst from Norway and all around the world, Mining lamps, and links. Best you plan your trip to Norway next summer when it will be warmer and have more daylight. Andersen is said to own some of the best mineral deposits in North Norway. Unfortunately his assets are frozen.

Crocuite.com, by Steve Sorrell, <<http://www.crocuite.com/>>, is about minerals of Australia and New Zealand and elsewhere. This is a work in progress with broken links. Wide-ranging, you need to worm your way through Australia, New Zealand, Census (Compendium of mineral localities), Publications (=References), Worldwide (Minerals and locations), Rockroom (Minerals for sale, only one at this time!), Art (Includes his works), Humor (Cartoons), Miscellaneous, eMinerals (A Google group), What's on (Events), and Links. Name origin: Crocuite, named after the guy that died. Australia has calcite, celestite, cerussite, chrysocolla, cinnabar, corundum, crocoite, and cuprite. Enough to make you C-sick

**UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS:**

October 28, 22nd Annual South Penn Rock Swap, 8 AM-3 PM, South Mountain Fairgrounds, (1.5 miles west of Arendtsville PA on PA Route 234. Admission: \$1. Swap tables: \$10. Sponsors Central Pennsylvania and Franklin County Rock and Mineral Clubs.

November 4-5, 37th Annual Gemarama of the Tuscarora Lapidary Society, Sat., 10 AM-6 PM, Sun., 10 AM-5 PM, School at Church Farm, Exton PA. Donation \$5, 2 days \$7, under 12 \$1. Theme: World of Opal. Many demonstrations and a silent auction. See <<http://www.lapidary.org/>>.

November 17-19 9th Annual Carnegie Gem & Mineral Show, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh PA. (Preview party Nov 16th.) Open Nov. 17 & 18, 10 AM-5 PM, Nov. 19, Noon-5 PM. Information: Phone 412 622 3391 or see <<http://www.carnegiemnh.org/minerals/gemshow/home.htm>>.

November 18-19, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4, Northern Virginia Mineral Club Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, George Mason University, Fairfax VA, Student Union II Bldg., Rte. 123 and Braddock Rd. Adults \$4, Seniors (65+) \$2, Teens (Ages 13-17) \$2, Under 12 free. Contact Tom Taaffe, (703) 281-3767, E Mail <rockclctr@aol.com>.

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 G&M Society of the Palm Beaches. Admission \$7. Southern Florida Fairgrounds, West Palm Beach FL. EFMLS Annual Meeting Friday, Nov. 17th. Contact Deb Bengtson, (561) 432-2953 <gemandmineral@bellsouth.net>. See <www.gemandmineral.cc> and/or <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/convention.htm>>.



December 9, Sat. 10-4:30. Fall Festival of Fine Minerals, Fossils, & Jewelry. Days Hotel, 9615 Deerco Road, Timonium MD, just north of Towson/Baltimore I83, Exit 17, Padonia Road. Commercial show by five dealers, admission free.



When a warming trend hit the Arctic, scientists were assigned to watch glaciers in danger of splitting. Naturally, all of the researchers had to have good ice sight.

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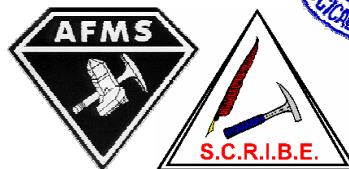
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All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for the Rockhounder and its editor. Such items are to be sent to the editor's home address.

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