

THE ROCKHOUNDER



THE REGULAR MEETING of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. will next be held on Monday, September 11 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 presented by Tim Rose of the Mineral Sciences Department at the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History Museum where he is a Specialist - Analytical Laboratory. His topic will be "The Cardinal Direction Marker Project at the National Museum of the American Indian". He has spoken at our Society in the past. Come and hear what should be an interesting story. We look forward to having Alison Post briefly describe her winning Science Fair Project to our membership. There will also be specimens for sale from the Paul and Jennie Smith donation to the Society.



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Will meet on Monday September 18 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 Changes:

BRALEY, Scott, 3813 Hillcrest Drive, Annandale VA 22003-2311, 301 305 1193, ekbgsb@cox.net

POST, Jeffrey, Home E Mail postja@comcast.net

Alison 2/92 (Science Fair winner), Marissa 6/98

WINGARD, Jennifer, and KING, Joshua. Use only XTLRESEARCH@YAHOO.COM for E mail

DUES were due by September 1st. It is WISE, if you have not already done so, to renew your Single membership at \$15 per year, or Family membership (Which is defined as up to 2 adults and children



under 18 years of age) at \$20 per year. We pay \$1.25 dues for EFMLS/AFMS, and about \$3.15 for insurance for each member over 10 years of age so when renewing, include only those interested in taking part in Society activities. Send to: Membership Chairperson

Frances Gallegos, 4003 Jeffry St., Wheaton MD 20906-4228, 301 949 7238. She will mail your membership card(s) back to you if you send her a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE), otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the September regular meeting.

MINUTES No regular meeting was held during the summer therefore there are no minutes this month.

NAME TAGS: With well over 100 members, it is very helpful that each member wear a name tag so we get to know each other better and it also makes it easier for new members and guests. If you never got a name tag or have lost one you had and want to have one made up see Frances Gallegos and for \$5.25 you can get an attractive one which has the Society Logo.

DEADLINE for the October Rockhounder is September 25, 2006

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ENJOY!	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Members with Birthdays in September: Michael Buynak, Mary Crosswhite, Erich Grundel, Emily Johnson, Tara Jones, Brian Kaider, Richard Long., Rory McElravy, Jo Ann Mohr, Georgia Olmstead, David Smith. Sorry, we missed Carolyn Carter in August.



Yogo Gulch Sapphires

One day back in 1895, "Old Jake Hoover" was panning for gold in Yogo Gulch in central Montana. His luck was not too good that day, but he noticed in the tailings of his pan some small blue pebbles which he sent off to Tiffany's in New York. Back came a check for \$17,000! This legendary prospector had stumbled onto the largest sapphire dike in the world, right in the gullies of central Montana. Since then, \$30 million worth of sapphires have been extracted from the five-mile long gem-encrusted fissure in the Little Belt Mountains, 45 miles west of Lewistown, Montana. Yogo Gulch is the only place in the world where sapphires are locked in their original rock formation deep under the ground. (Editor: I Question this) Old Jake sold the mine, along with everything he had in 1896, for \$5,000 and took off for the wilds of Alaska. And you think that you make bad decisions. The mine has since had several owners and problems with production and legal snarls. They have now streamlined the mining operation, introducing modern technology and hope to get \$40 million worth of sapphires out of the mines annually. Estimates are that less than 5% of the deposit has been mined.

Excerpted from the San Jose Mercury News, via The Rolling Rock, Roseville Rock Rollers 9/05

Note: Some information here is at odds with "Yogo The Great American Sapphire" by Steven Voynick 1985.



BOARD MEETING MINUTES for the Meeting of August 4, 2006. A special meeting at the home of Juan Proaño was called by the President for the purpose of discussing important business relating to the 2007 Show. Directors present: Scott Braley, George Durland, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, and Rod Towers. The meeting was called to order by President Braley at 7:45 PM. Juan Proaño related the history of the problem confirming the show date. He and George Durland had been in contact with the Fairgrounds repeatedly since March. We have always had our chosen third full weekend in March and, in the December before the show, made a security deposit. Despite verbal promises, the normal weekend date is unavailable to us, having been committed by the Fairgrounds to another group. The Fairgrounds site is available the week before but not the week after. They also reported that rates will rise in the order of 15%. George and Juan investigated the Bohrer Park facility in Gaithersburg which has quite a few drawbacks. Wendell reported that the Stone Ridge School where the GLMSDC has a new venue for their show this weekend, is more expensive and likely not available during the school year, per conversation with Russ Shew, their show chairman. Wendell also reported that the Seneca Lodge in Germantown did not meet our space needs. An analysis of costs, past and proposed, was made by Juan. It was moved by Wendell, seconded by George, and unanimously voted to secure the March 10 & 11, 2007 date at the Fairgrounds, raise the dealer table charge from \$100 to \$115 per table, and keep the same admission fees. Some conflicts may arise with dealers and other shows about the dates but we have no choice. George and Juan will contact the Fairgrounds on August 8th, when the employee to contact returns from vacation, and arrange for the security deposit as well as to secure the 3rd weekend in March of 2008. Wendell urged that we write the Fairground's Board of Directors about our mistreatment. We need to obtain a copy of prior dealer contracts and will check with Jim Michaelis to see if he has the information, if not we need to contact Harvey Lindenbaum. Upon confirmation of the show dates, George will get publicity started. Scott said that lacking a volunteer for Show Chairman, he would be available after mid September to temporarily handle the assignment. Rod reported that the September meeting speaker will be Tim Rose. George reported that the application for Society 501C3 status has been submitted, with the assistance of Pat Jayne and we await the results. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM. Wendell Mohr, Secretary pro-tem.

⇒ Ten thousand years ago, the first humans came to North America. They crossed from Russia to Alaska. Actually, they hadn't intended to do this. But they got lost and couldn't get their Berings Strait. ⇐



MINERAL/FOSSIL COLLECTING MASTER:

It might be helpful to have a check off list when going on collecting trips so you will be less likely to forget something of importance. Not all items are needed for every trip. Copy this suggested list, for later use:

<p><u>Equipment:</u> Buckets or Packs Prospecting pick Large pick Sledge, crack hammer Cold chisels, Wedges Crowbar, Pry bar, Pinch bar 10X glass Safety glasses, Goggles, Sunglasses, Spare glasses Steel toed boots, Hard hat, Gloves Canteen/Water Shovel Garden claw, Dandelion digger Sieve, Screen Gold pan, Waders Hardware or carpenter's apron Plastic boxes for small specimens Pocket knife GPS unit Camera, Camera bag, Lenses, Flash Film or digital media Batteries, Re-charger Cell phone First aid kit</p> <p><u>Supplies:</u> Paper for wrapping, Flats Old towels for vehicle seat protection Cardboard for vehicle floor protection Field labels</p> <p><u>Clothing:</u> Appropriate for the season Sweater Jacket or coat Raincoat, Plastic Raincoat Sweat band or Bandannas Sun hat</p>	<p><u>Miscellaneous:</u> GLMS trip information Collecting locality books Books, pamphlets Notes on locality AAA maps, Tour books County maps State maps Topographic maps Geological maps Travel Brochures List of collectors and dealers Kleenex, TP Soap, Lava soap Sunscreen, bug spray, lip balm Cassettes, CD's, DVD's, MP-3 Medicines you need Newspapers, magazines to read evenings A buddy (For safety)</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Try for items not requiring refrigeration Cooler, ice or ice substitute if needed Cinnamon raisin bread Bagels Cookies Fruit (Apples, oranges, bananas) Pudding cups not requiring refrigeration Drinks Lunch bag Napkins Plastic spoons, knives, forks</p> <p>W. Mohr September 2006</p>  
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FIELD TRIPS

September 24: Annual Open House at Meckley Quarry, Mandata PA. Noon to 5 PM. Children permitted only if accompanied by an adult. There is usually food for sale and tailgating is typically allowed. To be found is Celestine, Calcite, Strontianite, Sphalerite, Fluorite and fossils. This is about a 3 hour drive from Rockville. Take I-70N, US-15N, I-81E, US-22 & 322N, PA-225N. Quarry is on left just before town of Mandata PA.

Other trips have not yet been finalized. Medford and Rockville quarries are possible. When confirmed you will be notified by E Mail or you may call Field Trip Chairperson Anita Lizas James at 301 652 5527 for news if you do not have E Mail.

USPS NAVAJO JEWELRY STAMPS: Richard Busch has added a description of the three different varieties of the stamp issued in 2004 and 2006 to his Philatelic Mineralogy web site (And how to distinguish the varieties from one another). You can go to the page directly at <<http://stampmin.home.att.net/usa-3749.htm>>. The description of the differences among the three varieties of stamps is excruciatingly detailed, which may be more than mineral collectors want, but it will appeal to stamp collectors who tend to love this detailed stuff.



IDENTIFICATION OFFER Your editor received this communication (Edited) from Dr. Sarah Penniston-Dorland, Department of Geology; University of Maryland:

"I am on the faculty at the U. of MD College Park, Geology Department. I have received notices for meetings of the GLMSMC over the past year but have been unable to attend. I will be teaching a class in Optical Mineralogy to our undergrads in the spring semester. I am hoping in Spring 2007 to start a "Pet Mineral" project for the students, in which each student will be given an unknown mineral that they will identify using a whole host of techniques, including hand specimen characterization, grain mount optical petrography, thin section optical petrography, x-ray diffraction, and electron microprobe analysis. I thought it would be especially interesting/challenging for the students if there were any samples that your members could provide to the students. If there are any samples that your members may have that they are unable to identify or are especially unusual or even samples for which members would like full characterization (for example, an amphibole for which they would like to know the specific chemical composition). Ideally the students could come to a meeting of your society near the end of the semester and give a presentation of their results to the members, if that could fit both your schedule and the semester's schedule. The tricky part is that the samples



would have to be either a single mineral or have a particular mineral that could easily be distinguished in hand sample. The samples would have to be ones that your members didn't mind being partially destroyed (cut for thin section preparation and small amounts crushed for grain mounts and x-ray diffraction), so clearly valuable samples would not lend themselves to this exercise. They would also have to be large enough for students to be able to cut and crush parts of the sample for analysis. Please let me know if you think this is a project in which the GLMSMC might be interested in participating.

I think it would provide a wonderful educational experience for the students, and I hope that it might be of interest or use to your society as well.

Cheers, Sarah (301) 405-6239, FAX: (301) 405-3597, E Mail <sarahpd@geol.umd.edu>, Web page <<http://www.geol.umd.edu/pages/faculty/PENNISTON-DORLAND/penniston-dorland.htm>>".

If you have some specimens to donate, or some unknowns you want identified, this is an opportunity which would be mutually beneficial. How about those unknowns from Rockville or Medford quarry? I have not yet heard back from her about smallest size specimen to run the tests. Please let me (Wendell Mohr) know if you want to participate and I will coordinated with her.

FIELD TRIP HAPPINESS IS.....

1. Finding that the "Fools gold" on your quartz...Isn't!
2. Having to ask for help to carry your crystal back to the truck.
3. Finding the biggest and best "Bragging rock" on the field trip.
4. Finding a geode as big as a basketball and weighing as much as a golf ball.
5. Your rock hounding partner telling you the snake you sat on is a garter snake.
6. Stumbling over a yucky flat piece of sandstone and finding a complete fossil on the back.
7. Finding all those big and beautiful specimens on the ground without having to dig for them.
8. Your rock hounding leader telling you the hike up the hill is a mile, and it is only half a mile.
9. Discovering that the old rock you used to block your truck wheel so it would not roll away is really a Baseball size hunk of facet-grade topaz.



SAFETY BE SAFE - BE WELL

What's in the Bottle? From June/July 2006 AFMS Newsletter By Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

In your shop, studio, garage or barn have you ever asked yourself this question? Well, I have and one situation sticks in my mind. I was putting the finishing touches on a home-built trailer that I needed to transport our basic household necessities to my first duty station when I entered the Army. A close friend came by to bid us farewell and brought with him his wife and two-year old son. While we admired the trailer, the little boy spotted a coke bottle sitting on one of lower beams in the garage and walked over and took a swig. The little kid choked and sputtered and cried because he wanted coke. The father then asked the question "What is in the bottle?" I really wasn't sure other than I thought it was a mixture of penetrating oil of some sort. My first thought was "stupid kid" and my second thought was that I was the stupid kid for having an unknown, unmarked, substance in the wrong container. The best part of the story was that the kid was fine, and his mother eventually spoke to me again. It really did not have to turn out that way and I felt so fortunate.

Now, I always try to label things. During a recent "clean up campaign" in the silver studio where we teach I discovered several unknown solutions that I promptly threw away. Metal smiths are notorious for trying new and/or different fluxes, pickle solutions or cleaners or most anything else that promises improved performance. It is absolutely imperative that we do not tolerate any unknown or unmarked material. We are always positive that we will remember exactly what we mixed up or repackaged and put up on the shelf.

In the last class we taught I saw that a student was having a terrible time setting a cabochon in a simple piece of jewelry. After asking a few questions I learned that the student was using a strip of silver that he brought to class and assumed it was fine silver bezel material. It wasn't! It was sterling which we all know is more rigid and more difficult to set around a stone, particularly for a beginning student. The converse of this situation has also occurred when a student made prongs for a setting from fine silver when the project called for sterling silver. The setting was too flexible and would not hold the stone properly. Gremlins are always among us and miss-marked material can jump up when we least expect it.

Other prime areas for surprise include:

- Mixing or using the wrong solder.
- Mixing jewelry saw blades – coarse and fine.
- Confusing permanent markers with dry-erase markers.

Well, what can we do to avoid the type of problems we have been discussing? I really do not have a fool-proof solution except for attention to detail and constant alertness. What ideas do you have?

REQUEST FOR MARYLAND ROCKS I received this E Mail message (excerpted): "Hello Wendell, I pulled your name from R& G Magazine as a contact person. I am making a map of the United States using rocks from each state. I am short seven states, all from the north east, and MD is one of them. I am hoping you might be able to help me out with a slab of rock from your state, identified, something that will cut and polish. A slab about 2" to 3" square would be sufficient. I have all of the other state stones cut and in place. Anything you can do will be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Ralph Sterling, E Mail <rsterling4@cs.com >". If anyone can supply Ralph with the requested MD rough, perhaps serpentine or rodingite, please let me know, and then work directly with him.

⇒ This madness of going miles in all kinds of weather, digging and pounding rocks, concerns only two kinds of people: Males and females. ⇐



AURORA NEWS Per Jennifer Wingard: For many years fossil collectors have hoped for mining at Aurora NC to advance toward the Pamlico River and better collecting. That day has come. A new highway, cutting through the mine, is open. Unfortunately, no mined area is available for collecting this fall. Only small piles of leftover mining soil will be available this fall season to very limited collecting by Friends of the Museum and those slots have been allotted. This is expected to be a temporary situation and hopefully full collecting opportunities will resume in the spring.

EVENTS: November 14, 10:30-Noon, **Rockville Senior Center**, Azalea Room, 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>. Members \$21, Non-members \$29 for each of the first two sessions:

September 9, Sunday, 10 AM–2 PM, **Geology of Calvert Cliffs, for adults.**

October 15, Sunday, 10 AM–2 PM, **Geology of Calvert Cliffs, for adults.**

October 2, Monday, for 3rd, 4th graders, 3:30—5:30 PM, **Down to Earth**, about geology and earth science, Members \$82, Non-members \$113

Montgomery County Recreation Dept./ Montgomery Parks MNCPPC Register for programs on Web <<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/rec/index.asp>> 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 (Who has demonstrated at our Show) 10 sessions beginning either Wednesdays on Oct. 4th, or on Thursdays Oct. 5th, 7-9 PM at Concord Center. Fee \$145 for either.

Jewelry Basics, Age 12 up, 1 session Saturday Sep. 16, 11 AM-1 PM, Damascus Community Recreation Center or Wednesday Sep. 27, 7-9 PM, Bauer Dr. CC, Fee \$30 for either. \$16 material fee. Donna Weeks, instructor.

Necklace with a Twist, Age 13 up, 1 session, Wednesday October 4, 6:30-9:00 PM, Bauer Drive CC, Fee \$35. \$6 material fee. Donna Weeks instructor.

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 18, 7-9 PM, Bauer Drive CC, Fee \$40. \$10 material fee. Donna Weeks instructor.

Gemology I, For adults, 13 sessions, starting Wednesday September 20, 10 AM-Noon, Concord School, Fee \$125. Instructor, our own Lisa Carp!

Gemology II, For adults, 13 sessions, starting Tuesday September 19, 10 AM-Noon, Concord School, Fee \$125. Instructor, also Lisa Carp!

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

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

Boy Scout Geology Merit Badge Age 8-18, 1 class, Saturday September 16, 10 AM-3:30 PM. Fee \$40. Meadowside Nature Center.

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.:

Stone Carving, Age 15 and up, Wednesday, 6 sessions, September 27–November 1, 6–9 PM, \$45 tool rental, \$75 stone fee if needed. Class Fee \$280. Info: <nizettebrennan@hypmedia.com> or 301 942 6975. Instructor. Nizette Brennan.

Beginning Metalsmithing, Age 15 and up, 4 sessions Tuesday and Wednesday, September 12-20, 6- 10 PM or Saturday, Feb 3-24, 2007, 10 AM-2 PM. Class fee \$265. Instructor Deborah Dubois, who has also demonstrated at our Show.



November 4-5, Mineralogical Symposium, Friends of Mineralogy, PA Chapter. Field trip Nov. 4. Lectures Nov. 5 at Delaware County Institute of Science, Media PA, including Classic Eastern Localities (Pegmatites of CT, Gap Nickel Mine PA, Phoenixville PA History and Mineralogy, MD Mineral Classics, & Old Delaware Co. Mineral Localities). Info. Doug Rambo 302 798 4163, E Mail <Drambo@wserv>.

GOODBYE 1988! You may recall that in the last edition of the Rockhounder there was no nominee for the position of Secretary for 1989. This problem was solved when Ginger Posthumus volunteered to take on the job. Consequently, a full slate of officers was presented at the November regular meeting. No other floor nominations were made, thus the slate--President Juan Proaño, VP Gordon Austin, Treasurer Gladys Fuller, and of course, Ginger Posthumus as Secretary--was elected by acclamation.



Mike Ellwood reported that the weather the day of the field trip to Rockville Quarry was great, but gave no report as to the findings, so draw your own conclusions.

The speaker at November's meeting was Dr. Lawrence J. Drew of the USGS, who spoke about the Bayan Obo iron, niobium, and rare-earth deposit in Inner Mongolia, China. The Bayan Obo is a treeless area about 18 km long (11.2 Mi.) and 1/3 km wide (0.20 Miles), located about 80.5 km (50 miles) from the Russian border. The host rock is dolomite and shale through which the iron, etc., rose through vents during hydrothermal episodes. The minerals are commercially significant, but the large deposit of fluorite, also there, is too contaminated to be of any commercial value. Dr. Drew donated a specimen of Huanghoite to the Society which was won as a door prize by Larry Harrison. For the curious, the mineral is named after the Yellow River.

Nancy Ballard, in November's Rockhounder, reported the discovery of an unusual gem site. According to the Washington Post a surgeon had removed a cyst from a patient's ovary which, when opened, revealed a diamond instead of the suspected cancer! It was guessed that, at the time of the patient's Caesarian section 52 years earlier, the gem had fallen from either the attending surgeon or nurse. A new variety of diamond, overavite?

In the same Rockhounder Nancy reported that scientists at the Naval Research Lab had succeeded in turning sewer gas from DC's Blue Plains Waste Eater Plant into diamond! I won't venture a varietal name for that one, but apparently it was not a commercial success.

Of course, a major portion of December's meeting was devoted to the ingestion of various tasty items provided by Society members. However, there also was a program. Juan Proaño had prepared two slide programs of activities he had observed in Brazil. These were presented by Nancy and Dave Ballard, Juan having gone to a warmer climes in South America. One program depicted the sorting and polishing of agates in Rio Grande do Sul. The workers toiled in crowded conditions, using the dry sanding techniques. They wore no safety glasses or gloves. Obviously there was no equivalent of OSHA there. The other program slides were taken at Minas Gerais where tourmaline had been discovered in a weathered pegmatite dike. At least these men were working out of doors, using hand tools to dig out the crystals. Each man worked for himself, selling whatever he found, then giving the property owner 10% of his earnings.

Gladys Fuller reported she had given talks in various schools during the preceding three months. At Brookhaven ES She conducted a "Rock and Mineral Identification Lab"; at Highland ES she explained "What is a Fossil?"; and at Highland View ES and Lakewood ES she spoke about "Reading the Rocks". Altogether she spoke to about 200 kids.

And so we come to the end of 1988. It was a busy year, with much accomplished. Next month I'll start delving into the 1989 Rockhonders. I should find some interesting material. Hope all of you had an enjoyable summer. Contributed by Jack Busch

IVORY IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP A repeat opportunity to attend will be on Sunday, September 17th, 10 AM-4 PM, by Bobby Mann. I assume there will be a \$25 fee payable to the DCGIA Alumni as there was earlier. Location: 4111 Rocky Mount Drive, Temple Hills MD 20748-5646. See page 7 of the May 2006 Rockhounder for more information. For even more information and registration contact Bobby Mann at <mannivorymann@aol.com> or phone 301 894 2016.

EFMLS REGIONAL VP For our Region 4, William "Bill" Gilbert, 8486 Country View Lane, Hopewell, VA 23860-8759, 804-541-8520, <billis4rocks@adelphia.net> is the person who fills the position Jennie Smith formerly held. Bill is a member of the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society and the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg. He was nominated by a large majority of the clubs in this region and in talking with Bill it is easy to understand why.

Information via Fran Sick, EFMLS 1st Vice President

EFMLS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE GOLDEN SEPTEMBER By Wayne Sukow, EFMLS President

CLUB MEMBERS, they are the raw ore, the specimens in the rough that need some trimming and polishing before going on display. Yet, no club can flourish and continue without them. They, too, volunteer to work on committees and help put on club shows. Some give presentations to their club and others. They support and push club officers to excel and give the club its vitality. They get to know each other and share interests and skills. They are a club resource; they are truly treasures.

CLUB OFFICERS, they are the trimmed specimens and finished lapidary items from cabochons to faceted stones. They are a semi-precious treasures who are always on display, yet never get a ribbon or trophy. They are the hard working volunteers, many of who've served as different club officers over the years. They make the local clubs excel and flourish. Have you ever seen an active, moving-on club, which has no president, vice president, secretary, treasurer...field trip chair...and more? I haven't. Recognize your club officers, they are a club resource. Get to know them, they are truly treasures.

EDITORS, they are truly a treasure as anyone who reads club newsletters regularly knows. They are among the hardest working volunteers in any organization including gem and mineral clubs. Not only are they hard working but they often have served in the Editor's role for many years* and know many of the details that must be attended to by others, which include committee chairs, club officers, and your Eastern Federation officers. Recognize them, they are a club resource. Contribute articles to them, they are appreciative. Get to know them, they are truly a treasure.

Club members, club officers, and editors of local clubs can make September 2006 a "Golden September" by working together, sharing responsibilities, sharing interests, and ideas for new programs. Why not have a group of your club members come to the EFMLS Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach in November 17-19? Join your friends for a great experience. Wayne

*Editor's Note = Nancy Ballard!

**THE WORLD'S BIGGEST TRILOBITE**

A team of Canadian paleontologists working along the Hudson Bay in northern Manitoba has discovered the world's largest recorded complete fossil of a trilobite, a many legged, sea dwelling animal that lived 445 million years ago. The giant creature is more than 70 centimeters long (about 28 inches), 70% larger than the previous record holder.

"This is an important and amazing find," says Robert Elias, a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Manitoba. "It looks like a huge bug!" Trilobites are an extinct group of arthropods with hard, jointed external skeletons, distantly related to crabs, scorpions, and insects. They are among the most familiar fossils of the Paleozoic Era, about 545-250 million years ago. "The majority of trilobites were between three and ten centimeters long," notes Dave Rudkin, assistant curator of Paleobiology at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. "Their fossil remains are eagerly sought by amateur and professional paleontologists alike." The record-setting trilobite was found and recovered during a long-term field project investigating fossils along an ancient marine coast of Late Ordovician age exposed near Churchill, Manitoba. "Four hundred and forty-five million years ago, this now frozen and windswept area was a thriving tropical have for life along what was then the Earth's equator," says Granham Young, associated curator of geology at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature and an adjunct professor at the University of Manitoba. The giant trilobite represents a new line of the genus *ISOTELUS*. Elias notes: "This remarkable discovery adds to our knowledge of biodiversity following the Ordovician evolutionary radiation, one



of the greatest diversification in the history of life. The huge species existed just before the end of the Ordovician Period, when *Isotelus* and many other trilobites disappeared in a great mass extinction. Studies of these events help us understand more about global environmental changes and their effects on the biosphere." From T Town Rockhound, Tulsa R&M Soc.

See <http://www.manitobamuseum.mb.ca/mu_trilobite.html>



WEB SITES

Have a knife time here!

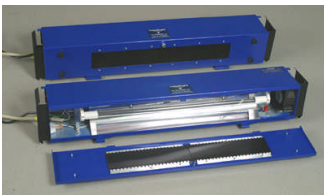
Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr

NOAA Ocean Explorer, at <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/06fire/>. The 2006 “Submarine Ring of Fire” expedition explores submarine volcanoes lying along the Mariana Arc in the Pacific Ocean. Once more, an extensive site affords a look at explorations, a gallery, technology, history, references, education and “For fun”. A multitude of options are here. Try 2006, Submarine ring of fire, leading to a multitude of links. See sulfur marbles, liquid CO₂, and shallowest black smoker. Black smokers: None of these in Montgomery County, The council enacted a smoking ban. Under sea volcanoes are really haute stuff.

The Fossil Forest, Dorset England by Ian West, is an out-of-the ordinary, very British, spot to learn some geology and paleontology at <http://www.soton.ac.uk/~imw/forest.htm>. Be sure to click on all pictures for an enlarged view. Unfortunately the illustration titles are very poor for legibility. None-the-less you can find out about an unusual mechanism for petrification. Rather than the burial in volcanic ash, so common in the U.S., saltwater flooding or Salinization occurred there which killed the trees. See “Other fossils”. If you have all day to browse, go to “Home and Contents” for an immense coverage of the Wessex Coast with remarkable text and photos of the geology. At least look at the first page. Evidently Dr. West went to this location to check out his family tree. How far is it to the fossil forest? Just a hop, skip, and a stump.



Fluorescent Minerals, by Stuart L. Schneider, River Edge, New Jersey, is a commercial site promoting the author’s book and minerals for sale at <http://www.geocities.com/~stuar1031/>. No endorsement is made but there are some nice UV and white light photographs from NJ and other localities. Besides the narrative, there are ever popular links. Violet Johnson saw the spectacular NJ fluorescents. Now she is ultra Violet. The Motel 6 near Franklin is very friendly to mineralogists. Sign: “We’ll Leave the –ite on for Ya” Photo courtesy of UV SYSTEMS, Inc. TripleBright II UV Light.

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS:

September 16-17, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. 41st Annual Gem & Mineral Show of the Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club. Note new location: Central Dauphin Middle School, Locust Lane and South Houcks Road, Harrisburg PA. Admission \$5. Web Site: www.rockandmineral.org. Info: Ted Keck, 717 474 0112.

September 23-24, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5, 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. Free Parking. Admission \$5. Web Site: <http://www.gemcuttersguild.com/>.

October 28, South Penn Rock Swap, 8 AM-3 PM, South Mountain Fairgrounds, (1.5 miles west of Arendtsville PA on route 234. Admission: \$1. Swap tables: \$10.

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 17-19 9th Annual Carnegie Gem and Mineral Show, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh PA. Preview party Nov 16th. Hours not yet announced, see <http://www.carnegiemuseums.org/cmnh/minerals/gemshow/>.

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

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



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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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