

**PURPOSE** The purpose of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. is "To increase knowledge and popular interest in earth sciences, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, and related subjects".

**REGULAR MEETING** Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. **Next meeting: Monday June 11th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short 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. **Program:** Dr. Peter Kranz will speak about Dinosaurs in MD. More specific information was not received at press time.

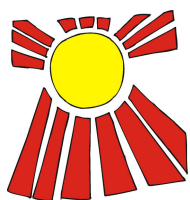
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** There will be **NO** June Board meeting

**ROSTER CHANGES** New Member:

LANTZ, Elmer, 10128 Hereford Place, Silver Spring MD 20901-2035, 301 593 0369

**Change:** MASON, Mary Beth: new E Mail m.b.mason@comcast.net

SHAW, Annie: new E Mail annie.shaw@verizon.net



**SUNSHINE** John James who suffered burns to his arm was at the May meeting with bandages still bearing witness to the injury. Heal fast, John.

Nancy Ballard is undergoing chemotherapy again and your prayers will supplement her treatment.

Our thoughts are with Ginger Posthumus, who suffered a mini stroke (Transient Ischemic Attack) in April. She had been driving with a friend from the Philadelphia area to the home of her daughter, Debbie Bard, at Warfordsburg PA. Ginger was admitted to the Emergency Department of the Hagerstown Hospital and was there for four days while they ran all kinds of tests. Upon release she was not allowed to drive and had to exercise caution for awhile until checked out by her own Doctor in NC.

**REMINDER** There are **NO** meetings in July and August. Have a great summer and remember that the **DEADLINE** for the July-August 2007 Rockhounder is July 1st.

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**Scott Braley has agreed to be Show Chairman for 2008. Your Society Desperately needs a Show Vice-Chairman.**

**Also still needed: a person or persons to make cabochon pre-forms for the Show workshop in 2008.**

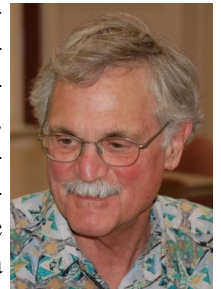
**Apply to Scott Braley**



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

President Scott Braley called the May 14, 2007 meeting to order at 7:49 pm. Attendance was about 42 people. Juan Proaño, Treasurer, reported that Show finances are now accounted for and overall we are financially sound. Scott announced that Heather Felsen was the recipient of the Wildacres Workshop Scholarship from the Society. She has returned and there will be a write up for the Rockhoulder about her experience. Field Trip chair, Anita James, announced the Hunting Hill Quarry trip, to Rockville MD, scheduled for Sunday, May 20, 8:15 am. \$5 charge. Adults only. She also spoke of a tentative trip June 30 at 9:30 am to Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA, NW of Harrisburg. They have material similar to Winfield PA.: Gray limestone with calcite and strontianite, and maybe some celestite. Stay in touch with her for details. Scott mentioned that there were no takers for the trip to the American Museum of Natural History on May 6th. Wendell Mohr announced that he had tickets for the EFMLS raffle and that Jo Ann Mohr would have them for sale. There were B&W photos of the items for that raffle and also color pictures of the things for the AMFS Raffle for which we have no tickets but can take money. He mentioned Montgomery Co. Recreation Dept./MD National Capital Parks and Planning programs - brochures at the library. Upcoming G&M shows were highlighted. The Tiffany Diamond is still on Display at the National Museum of Natural History. Clearwater Nature Center is offering cabochon classes June 23, July 28, and August 25th, 9 am-3pm. There is a reduced rate for Montgomery and Prince Georges Co. residents. The GLMSDC meeting Fri. May 18th at 7 pm at the Chevy Chase Community will feature Merle White, Editor of the Lapidary Journal (Soon to be named Jewelry Artist). Non-members are invited to attend. Wendell announced the fall Wildacres Session Sep. 10-16, and had application forms available. Scott highlighted the EFMLS Region IV picnic and swap at Lake Anna State Park, VA on June 9th, 10 am-3 pm. Scott also called attention to the need for people to volunteer to make per-forms for the workshop for 2008. Contact either Paul Vance or Scott.

Vice-President Harry Lupuloff introduced the speaker, Bruce Gaber who presented a digital projection talk about "Masters of Mineral Illustration". Bruce credited Cathy Gaber for obtaining all the permissions and editing the talk which had been presented to the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium and the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators. Bruce's focus was on illustrations, not photographs, although some drawings were so accurate and life-like as to be nearly photographic. He traced illustrations for roughly 600 years beginning with Huay. Maydenbach in 1491 produced the earliest reproduction in color. Wood cuts, engraving, and copper engraving followed. There were Jean Baukin, Michele Mucari, LeRoy de Barde, and Joseph Melling whose work included a Wulfenite belonging to Wulfen, after whom it was named. Bruce showed a hand colored copper engraving by Jos. Melling. Color was also featured by Jacques de Favanne, Jean Dupin. His talk brought life to famous old specimen localities such as work of Henry Bone on Cornwall. The first US illustrator was Augustus Choate Hamlin showing Mt. Mica ME Tourmaline. Moving into the 20th century, Victor Mordechai Goldschmidt's Atlas of Crystal Forms was a 9 volume classic. Bruce covered many more excellent modern illustrators: Sinkankas, Vass, Fox, Art Smith (British), Haubenreisser, Equit, Wendell Wilson, Robinson, Ratnavire, Konighofer, Pros, and the photo realism of Merke. He touched upon the work of Babulski based on microscope work, and Cloete based on SEM photos. After work by Krotki, he moved on to Post-modernists Jackle, Slyotov & Makerenko, Sudcowsky, and Bernet. Cartoons, stamps, coloring books, and rubber stamps are by illustrators such as Vanek, Powell, Zeleznik, Neiwerk, Buckley, and Bruce and Cathy Gaber! There is an irregularly occurring article in Rocks and Mineral Magazine by Susan Robinson which highlight artists involved with illustrations. He cited Richard Busch (Son of our member Jack Busch), whose website <<http://stampmin.home.att.net>>, is a place to see mineral illustrations on stamps. Gaber's presentation was an unusual excellent presentation which was comprehensive and on a topic we have never had discussed.



Following a break, Scott announced that Juan had club patches for sale for \$2.00. Elmer Lantz was unanimously elected to membership. Although we have been verbally assured that the 501 C 3 status was approved, we have yet to receive written confirmation. Cynthia Hunter, upon nomination and unanimous vote, became Secretary of the Society. The minutes of the April Regular and Board meetings were unanimously approved.

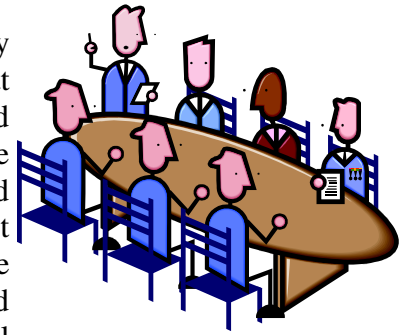
Scott made another plea for a person to become Show Chairman for 2008 (And beyond?) Contact him.

Door prize drawing and Show Table discussions followed, see listing elsewhere.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 pm.

Secretary Pro Tem Wendell Mohr

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES** The May 21st meeting was called to order by Pres., Scott Braley, at 7:35 pm. Members present were Nancy Ballard, Scott Braley, George Durland, Cynthia Shupe, Harry Lupuloff, Wendell Mohr, and Juan Proaño. Non Member present Dave Ballard. Scott Braley discussed the Society web site. Nancy Ballard moved, seconded by George Durland, and unanimously approved that \$400 be allocated to web design. We still need to get \$500 deposit back from the fairgrounds and cover our issues in writing to the fairgrounds board. Other show venues are to be investigated. Scott expressed willingness to be 2008 Show Chairman. If no one volunteers to assist, he will make direct contacts. The high cost of the paid Gazette Show advertising was discussed and George Durland will investigate reducing ad size, asking for reduced rate for 501 C 3, or reducing geographical coverage. The Librarian needs to bring items to meetings for member use. Written confirmation of 501 C 3 status yet to be received.



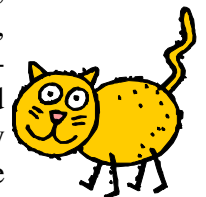
Dr. Peter Kranz will be the June speaker per Harry Lupuloff. After considerable discussion, it was moved by Nancy Ballard, seconded by George Durland and unanimously approved to establish speaker honoraria at \$50.00 or dinner, not both. Very notable speakers to be handled as an exception with Board approval.

Wendell feels that we should have operating procedures for all Society positions, including the show leaders. AFMS has established these and they might be a resource for us. He will seek copies. We had no representation at the Travilah Quarry open house for Earth Day or Rockville Science Day. Maybe next year. Shirley Leeson, AFMS, wrote a useful article on records retention for clubs. Copies will be made for the Board. This has been a subject of question for several years for our group.

Juan reported financial numbers, which are sound. He said that a \$100 bond for the best Junior exhibit at the Show has been purchased. Scott will present it at a regular meeting. He reported that the check for chair and table rentals was never received so another was issued. We will not stop payment on the first check. He reminded of donations made last year. Wendell Mohr moved, and George Durland seconded that we send \$400 to the AFMS Scholarship Fund, \$100 to the American Lands Access Association, \$300 to the AFMS Endowment Fund, and \$300 to the EFMLS Endowment fund. The motion unanimously passed.

Scott Braley did not call for a June Board meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm. Notes by W. Mohr

**MEET YOUR NEW SECRETARY** Cynthia Hunter was born in the suburbs of Alexandria, Virginia and lived there until the age of 8 when her family (Parents and younger brother, Shawn) moved to the country - Amissville, in Rappahannock County VA. She lived there until around the age of 21 when she moved back to the city (Northern VA then MD) and moved around until she met her now husband, Alf, little over 15 years ago. She now resides happily in Damascus MD, no children, one medium haired tabby (A Rockcat?) named Thomas. She works at Sodexo as an analyst. Although she's only gone "real" rock hunting once, she has always loved being outdoors and in nature being raised on hiking (thinner when in the country) in all kinds of weather. Her mother would insist on Christmas walks around 35 acres of property including direct access to the Rappahannock River. She went horseback riding at the time of elementary school, down hill skiing when in high school, and more. She now is working on getting back in shape towards a major rock hounding trip in North Carolina and Georgia for her upcoming wedding anniversary and looking forward to getting "down and dirty" with her husband (smile). We thank Cynthia, a new member this year, for accepting the nomination to the Secretary position with the GLMSMC. Congrats upon being unanimously elected in May.



A jeweler standing behind the counter of his shop after hours was astounded to see a suspicious looking man come hurling headfirst through the window. Glass broke and scattered everywhere. "What on earth are you up to? What happened?!" he demanded. "I'm terribly sorry," said the man, "I forgot to let go of the brick."

**SHOW TABLE** April 9, 2007 Thanks to those who bring items to sharing at the meetings

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen(s)</u> * = Self-collected	<u>Locality</u>
Paul Braley	Mica	Hunting Hill Q., Rockville MD
Scott Braley	Fluorite, Barite, Galena*	Royal Flush Mine, NM
Jeff Cessna	Calcite*	Hardy County WV
Mark Dahlman	4-color fluorescent Calcite*	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
	Fluorescent Calcite*	Medford Q., near Westminster MD
George Durland	Calcite, Franklinite, +?	Langban, Sweden
	Manganaxinite crystals	Franklin NJ
	Massive Manganaxinite	Franklin NJ
	Garnet, Willemite, + others	Franklin NJ
Chuck Hyland	Unakite, Epidote	Ouray CO
	Unknown*	Top Pike's Pk. near CO Sprgs. CO
Bob Irby	Faceted Stone: Teal Amethyst	Russia
Sarah Kaider	Dead Sea Salt (Halite)	Israel
Alexandra Kindahl	Dalmation Stone, Apache Tear Obsidian, Schorl	Not given
	Snowflake Obsidian, Picasso Jasper, Jet	
Eric Kindahl	Saccocoma Pectinata (Jurassic free swimming Crinoid)	Solnhofen, Germany
Zachary Lupuloff	Quartz	Arizona
Wendell Mohr	Pyrite	Spruce Claim, King Co. WA
George Reimherr	Sphalerite, with silicified black Shale, With fossilized worm burrows	{ Red Dog Mine, 40 miles from Noatak, Brooks Range, AK
Joel Rosen	Calcite	Sussex County NJ
	Garnet on Calcite/Fluorite	AZ
Nancy Shinowara	"Mystery" rock (Very hard, very heavy)	Houston TX
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens	



**MAY PRIZES:** The Junior winner was Zachary Lupuloff who won a Pyrite from Navajun, Loa Rioja, Spain. The Show Table prize, a Beryl var. Aquamarine with Schorl from Omaruru district, Erongo Mtn., Namibia was taken home by Jeff Cessna. The general door prize, a very attractive Septarian cabochon pendant went to visitor, Robert Clemenzi.



**DRAWINGS** The EFMLS Ways and Means Committee is running a drawing for at least the 7 prizes in hand now (You are urged to donate a prize if you wish to increase the attractiveness of the lottery). Tickets are available now from Jo Ann Mohr. They need to be returned by September 15th for the drawing at the October Newark NY EFMLS Convention . See <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efmay07.pdf>>. Proceeds go to the principal of the Eastern Federation Fund, interest from which is used for projects to benefit clubs.

**TRIVIA**

California was the first state to designate an official State Rock (Serpentine). Vermont has three official State Rocks (Granite, Marble and Slate). Colorado is the only state whose geological symbols are always red (Rhodochrosite), white (Yule Marble), and blue (Aquamarine). Massachusetts also has a state historical rock (Plymouth Rock), explorer rock (Dighton Rock), and building and monument stone (Granite).

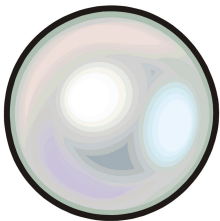


<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_state\\_minerals,\\_rocks,\\_stones\\_and\\_gemstones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_minerals,_rocks,_stones_and_gemstones)>  
Via Hound's Howl Oct 2006

**JUNE MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** Andrew Celmer, Christy Church, Dale Fisher, Dave Freeman, James Fulcher, Susan Harris, Larry Harrison, Anita James, Bill Jones, David MacLean, John Muir, Fred Parker, Marissa Post, George Reimherr, Eve Spielman, and Gayle Edward Wilson. Your birthstone is **Pearl**, the knitter's gemstone: Knit one, pearl one. There are three categories of pearls: natural, cultured and imitation. The nature or formation of natural and cultured pearls is so similar that they can be distinguished easily from imitation or simulated pearls by a simple tooth test. Lightly rub the pearl against your tooth; if the pearl feels smooth, like a glass bead, it is a man-made imitation. If the pearl feels slightly rough, like very fine sandpaper, it is either a natural or cultured pearl.



Pearls are formed in a variety of pearl-bearing mollusks, members of the oyster family. The mollusk is enclosed within two hinged shells or valves of about equal size. The main portion of the mollusk body is protected by the mantle, a tent like membrane that folds within the shell to form two shields between the body and the inside of the shell. The mantle secretes calcium carbonate and conchiolin (Kon-KI-oh-lin). The part of the mantle that folds down touching the inside shell faces produces tiny irregular platelets made of minute flattened aragonite prisms which produce iridescent layers inside the mollusk shells. If a foreign object gets into the mollusk, the mantle will entrap and coat the foreign object. These iridescent layers of irregular plates of minute flattened aragonite prisms are called mother-of-pearl on the inside of the shell and nacre (NAY-ker)



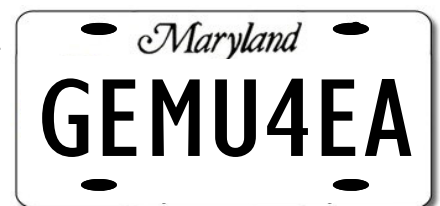
on the foreign object. If the object becomes attached to the shell, the multiple layers will produce a blister pearl that can be cut away making a half or cabochon pearl. If the object is not attached to the shell, the nacre will be deposited on the entire surface in concentric rings. These multiple layers of nacre produce an iridescent sheen moving across the surface. This is called "orient" and is what gives the pearl its unique beauty.

If a pearl forms either in fresh water or salt water without help from man, it is classified as a natural pearl. If a foreign object (nucleus) together with a small square of mantle tissue is placed inside the mollusk by man and is cared for by man (i.e. a pearl farmer), and a pearl is produced, this pearl is classified as a cultured pearl. Nuclei used by most pearl farmers of the world today come from beads of mother-of-pearl cut from shells from a mollusk found in the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Most of the pearls sold today are cultured.

Pearls can be found in a variety of sizes from absolutely spherical to irregular or baroque. Orient is the most important aspect of pearl color; the more pronounced the iridescent sheen, the higher the value. Pearl body color falls into three major groups - light, black and colored. Light pearls have a pink, white or cream body color. These light pearls are found with rose, blue, green and a cream or no overtone. Of the light group, the most valuable colors are pink, pink rose and white rose. Black pearls include black, gray, bronze, dark blue, purple, blue-green and green pearls with a pronounced metallic green overtone. Colored pearls are those that cannot be placed in either the light or black categories. They exhibit a pronounced hue as a body color, a light to medium tone of purple, yellow, gray, blue, violet or green. These colors are more common in freshwater pearls than in saltwater pearls. Many pearls sold on the market today have been dyed to enhance their value.

By James Sharp

References: Webster. Gems, 4th Edition, Liddicoat Jr., Richard T. Handbook of Gem Identification. Via Gem Cutters Guild Gem Cutters News



**FROM THE ROCKHOUND DICTIONARY:**

- ◆ Findings: Stuff you find.
- ◆ Faceting: A complex way to ruin a good mineral.
- ◆ Friend: One who can see the star in your sapphire.
- ◆ Geode: A poem to G. (often written in hollow verse)
- ◆ Grinding Wheel: A bearing going out on your old truck.
- ◆ Fortification: Two & twentyfications; a large gulp of good whiskey.
- ◆ Gentleman: A man who holds the door open for his wife to carry the rocks in.
- ◆ Diamond: The hardest stone known to man to get back from his old girlfriend.

Taken from Strata Gem,  
 Tooele G&MS Tooele  
 Utah, July/Aug 2005



**UV LED 395 nM BLACK LIGHT FLASHLIGHT**

There's a seller on eBay some people on one of the rock lists mentioned who's selling longwave UV LED flashlights. His top model has 49 LED's. For the price, I wouldn't bother with smaller ones. I got one to test. It works quite well but could use an additional filter to filter out the small amount of white light it has. Unfortunately, they don't have short and midrange versions listed. I'd imagine it's due to safety reasons - as in it could cause eye damage. The guy's prices are all over the place for the same item though so you want to shop carefully. He has a 15 pack for \$200, possibly great for a club to buy, then resell to members. Should work out to around \$15 each, including shipping. The ones he's selling individually are either \$15 or \$30 with \$5 shipping on "buy now" or you can bid on one for \$24 starting with \$5 shipping. You want to hunt for the \$15 version.



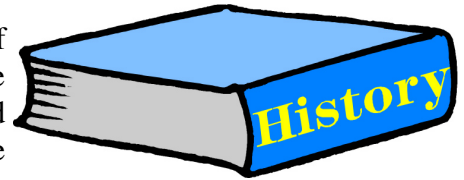
It has a really nice aluminum case but the lens is a very thin piece of plastic over the LED's. I guess you really don't need much protection for LED's. Many times places that sell UV lights with plastic lenses use regular plastic that automatically filters out some of the UV light, maybe it's better that it is so thin. I didn't test it without the lens. According to his specs, three AA batteries last 20 hours but you could always use rechargeable batteries. The LED's are rated at 100,000 hours of use. I'd suspect the switch would wear out long before the LED's. He claims that it has two power levels - I have a regular white light one that has three power levels so it's possible. The one I got was either on or off, not as advertised. To be honest though, for a black light, I couldn't figure out why you'd want power levels. I want to be able to spot anything with fluorescence when I'm out collecting. The stronger the light the better.

The first night after it arrived I took it out to my rock pile. First thing I spotted was a piece of hackmanite from Bancroft. The problem though with longwave (320-400nm) is the majority of fluorescent rocks are either short (100-280nm) or midwave (290-320nm), only a small amount are longwave. Still, for the price and ease of use, maybe it's a great chance to add to your long wave mineral collection. For improving the filter, if you want to block out the small amount of white light, there are sellers who can supply the filter glass in various sizes. You would need to shape it to fit as a replacement for the plastic lens. There's enough space above the LED's that the plastic bezel the LED's are mounted in could be modified to provide enough space for the new filter. On eBay, he sells under the ID 1Som\_BidSome. If you look under his store, there is an option to filter down (Search) to UV lights only. You can further filter (Search) by 49 to get only the 49 LED lights. As for me, I ordered a second one I liked it so much. And no, I don't have any connection with this seller.

Dan Imel, Apr.-Jun 2007 Scribe Newsletter

**WILDACRES** The Fall session will be Sept. 10-16. Imagine being able to spend a week totally immersed in the joys of our hobby - no interruptions from television, news, traffic, or worries. The setting is an idyllic mountain top retreat where you are well fed and cared for and you can take classes in many aspects of the hobby. There is such a place and it's called Wildacres, a conference center offering its facilities to nonprofit groups that conduct educational or cultural programs and seminars. It is a true retreat, undisturbed by through traffic or noises of the city, situated on 1600 acres at an elevation of 3,300 feet atop a mountain called Pompey's Knob, near the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is halfway between Asheville and Blowing Rock in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. Classes are given in areas such as Mineral Identification, Cabochon Making, Faceting, Soapstone Carving, Chain Making, Wire-wrapping and Wirecraft Jewelry, Precious Metal Clay, Lost Wax Casting, Intarsia, Channel Inlay, Micromounting, Pewter Fabrication, and Certified Judging and Exhibiting for those interested in improving their display cases or becoming judges. Fees for the 2007 sessions of Wildacres are \$330 per person. This fee includes room, board and classroom instruction. Most classes will also charge a nominal fee to cover materials and supplies. Obtain a free CD about the Workshops. Send to: <cscrystals2@verizon.net> giving the name and postal address to which the program is to be sent and the name of our club. Get Registration forms from your President or Editor.





**HISTORY** HELLO, 1990!—That’s only 17 years ago, therefore, more of you possibly may recall some of what I’ll be writing about. That year the Smithsonian still had its Naturalist Center in the museum at 12th Street and Constitution Avenue in DC where it would have an occasional Open House called Identi-Day. This program had begun in 1976 and has helped thousands of people to identify and learn about their treasures. One such day was on January 6th of our year under discussion, and I remember taking a specimen on that occasion and the person on duty telling me the exact location whence it came. The program still is in operation but now, alas, is in Leesburg VA, not as convenient to get to.

Another alas, there was no meeting in January 1990 because our gathering place, Herbert Hoover Junior High School, along with the rest of the county’s schools, had been shut down thanks to a snow fall. Our trusty Editor had warned us of such a possibility in January’s *Rockhounder*, and it was hoped that everyone “Got the word”. The snow had disappeared by the date scheduled for the Board of Director’s meeting, at which the main topic discussed was the upcoming show. All was progressing at its usual hectic pace.

As I’ve mentioned before, society bulletin editors exchange copies of their work with one another and as if it had been so planned, our Editor, Nancy Ballard, had received a copy of “The Golden Ledger” that contained a two-page article of hints about preparing exhibits, so she reprinted the article in February’s *Rockhounder* for the benefit of our members. I’d say 99% of the hints still are applicable. (Our Editors have great luck in finding items in other club’s publications. Perhaps something one or more of our members wrote would be of equal interest to other editors. (Hint, Hint!))

Although our current Spring already is here (I think), here’s another item Nancy found in another club’s bulletin that could be filed away for future reference. It seems that a heated piece of soapstone, wrapped in a towel or piece of a blanket, makes a good foot warmer in bed, and helps keep the rest of the body warm too. The stone (Size not specified) was heated in the oven for an hour (Again, temperature not indicated) before wrapping and placing it in the bed. I checked this out with a “Neighbah” of mine who’s from Maine and she said her folks did this, using an 8” X 10” slab and placing it on top of the wood stove. Guess you’ll have to experiment, just don’t sue me if you over toast your tootsies. The article stated this practice was known in prehistoric Egypt!

The weather gods relented sufficiently to permit our February meeting to be held on schedule. The evening’s speaker was Skip Cunningham from the Department of Economic Geology of the USGS, whose topic was “Bolivia and its Mines”. In his informative as well as good-humored presentation he told that copper, tin, gold, silver, and lithium were among the many items mined in Bolivia, and of the processes by which the ores had formed up through the layers of rock. He also gave the history and anatomy of the volcanic formations, and spoke of the cultures of the people of the area.

Although the principal activity of March was the annual show, a regular meeting also was held, thanks once more to clement weather. Wendell Mohr of the Scholarship Committee reported that its members had reviewed the applications and had selected three awardees. Melissa Brook of VPI, who had a GPA of 3.8, received the Dian Beckman Memorial Scholarship. The other recipients were Samantha King from Radford, and Paige Peapples of Marymount College. The evening’s program was given by Mike Ellwood who told of the trip he and his wife Kathy had made the preceding summer. Among other places, they visited southwest Wyoming, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, Topaz Mountain, and Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, checking out the fossils all along the way. Mike supplemented his remarks with a group of very scenic slides, making for a very enjoyable evening.

If you’re wondering about March’s show, I’ll tell about it next time. Meanwhile, have a great summer, with plenty of good hunting, regardless of whether with steel or silver pick. Contributed by Jack Busch

#### **EARTH SCIENCE BOOK BEST SELLERS:**

“The Day The Off Road Vehicle Broke Down” by I. Rhoda Bike      “Why I Hate Faceting” by I.M. Kidding  
 “The Saber Toothed Cat Attacked” by Claude Yarmoff      “Walking Into the Aurora Quarry” by Misty Bus  
 “Life Over When the BLM Closes the Area” by Midas Welbee      “Persistent in Collecting” by U. Will Gettitt

**BE SAFE - BE WELL**

In previous months I have submitted original articles usually dealing with issues that were current and filled a need. This month I am using material that I found in one of my old files. I do not know the author. I really wish I did so that I can give proper credit. I like the article and hope some of you will also appreciate the content.

**SAFETY RULES** Jewelry **making** can be a most enjoyable hobby but there are certain hazards which must be avoided, and can be, by following a few simple rules.

**Work Safely. You can't get by on luck.**

**Don't fail to report any apparent hazard immediately.**

**Don't set fire to your clothing with the torch.** Fuzzy sweaters are dangerous.

**Don't drop the torch or fail to turn it off.** An explosion might follow.

**Don't pour water into acid** when making pickle; pour acid into water.

**Don't turn over the pickle pot or the boil pot.** Keep handles to the rear.

**Don't put a large piece of very hot metal in pickle.** It might splash.

**Don't pick up the charcoal block or hot metal** until you are sure they are cool.

**Don't let your tie or hair get caught** by the rotating arbor. This could be fatal.

**Don't wear rubber gloves or fingerstalls when polishing.** These might wrap around the arbor.

**Don't get into contact with electricity or belts.** Don't work on a wet or damp floor.

**Don't hold a piece being drilled** with your hand; the drill might slip or break or the piece might spin when the drill breaks through. Use pliers.

**Don't put your fingers inside any item being polished,** for example, a belt-buckle, a ring, a bracelet, etc. Hold the work being polished between finger-tips and thumb.

**Don't work without some protection for the eyes** such as plastic goggles or a magnifying eye piece, particularly when using a rotating wire brush.

**Don't polish a wire or chain** on a rotary tool without nailing the wire or chain to a board. This might wrap around the arbor and pull your hand with it.

**We repeat: "Work safely. You can't get by on luck!"**

Just fail to observe these rules and you will find your situation comparable to that of the fellow whose wife had the stone-cutter carve on his tomb-stone, "I told you to go to the doctor".

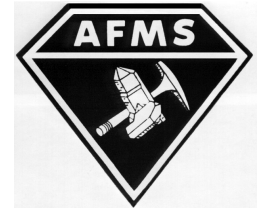
**AUDUBON SOCIETY SUMMER NATURE CAMPS FOR YOUTH** August 13-17, for pre kindergarten or kindergarteners, 5 half days am or pm. Dig deep into dinosaur life as we imagine ourselves back in time. Bones, fossils, pre-historic plants, and gigantic animals will surround us as we investigate the world's earliest life forms. We'll even have a go at identifying common dinosaurs (And learning their tricky names) in this camp. Members \$130, Non Members \$190.

July 23-27, 5 full days, for 1st and 2nd graders. Take an exciting journey back in time, when dinosaurs roamed and plants and trees loomed in gigantic proportions. As we investigate the past, we'll focus on geology, dinosaurs, and ancient plants and animals. We will also look at modern day descendents of dinosaurs and how they survived for millions of years. Members \$260, Non Members \$330.

June 25-29, 5 full days, for 3rd and 4th graders. Tornadoes, volcanoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods—nature's most awesome and devastating displays of power. Join us as we delve into these mystifying natural phenomena. We will conduct weather experiments, make geologic models, and explore Woodend for evidence of earth shaking events. Members \$260, Non Members \$330.

A newlywed couple were struggling to establish themselves financially. The husband frequently complained about the costs of running the household and his wife's inability to stick to a budget. Soon, they had a set of twins. This doubled all their expenses, and the husband complained even more. One day, he complained that his wife was using too much baby powder on the twins. But she was quick to point out that talc is cheap.

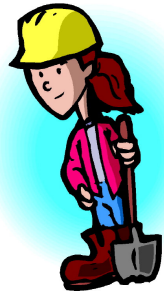
From AFMS  
Newsletter,  
April 2006  
by  
Don Monroe,  
AFMS  
Safety Chair





**FIELD TRIPS:**

June 24 at 8:30 am. Hunting Hill Quarry in Rockville. \$5.00 charge. Adults only.  
 June 30 at 9:00 am. National Limestone Quarry, Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA. Thanks to Ed Goldberg for inviting our Society members to a field trip arranged by Jake Slagle. There are exciting finds being made at this quarry, per Eric Stahl of the quarry. Eric says that we should find not only dogtooth spar calcite and strontianite, but also possibly some fluorite and celestine. But wait, there's more! Recently, the Ridgely sandstone deposits on the south side of the quarry are producing wavellite, cacoxenite, and possibly other phosphates. The wavellite is said to be outstanding and the A. E. Seaman mineral museum in Michigan has requested specimens! Additionally, fossil gastropods are turning up. Eric asks that we bring him labeled specimens from other quarries, because he loves minerals but does not get a chance to get out and collect. So, folks, let's give Eric a real good bunch of stuff! Eric recommends that some 4-wheel-drive vehicles be among our entourage, for best access. Also, he recommends that we have digging tools (picks, etc) and sledge hammers and chisels. Detailed directions have not yet been received, but should be before the trip. Please E Mail Ed at <Edmund.A.Goldberg@usdoj.gov> to register for the trip. Or (Ed.) let Anita know and she can E Mail Ed if you do not have E Mail. Don't forget specimens for Eric! Also, as always, hard hats, steel-toe boots, eye protection, gloves, and obey all quarry directives for safety! Safety first, cacoxenite second!

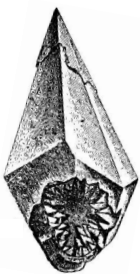


Possible trip to Pinesburg Quarry. Fred Parker reports that the Superintendent at Pinesburg indicates they will start blasting the dolomite pods and will allow the club in for a trip before they are removed, so the trip may be on a short notice. People who can go either weekdays or on a Saturday should contact Fred by telephone at 301 662 0751 or by E Mail at <parkermineral@aol.com> if they are interested in knowing when it might be. We will have no latitude in deciding the date, because they are going out of their way for us.

Contact Field Trip Chair Anita James to inquire about trips not yet listed or for further information on trips scheduled at 301 652 5527 or E Mail <johnjames04@comcast.net>. Everyone should contact her to indicate if you are going and to get any additional details. Reminder: if you leave a message on her answering machine be certain to leave your viable phone number and/or E Mail address so she can get back to you.

**BARITE OR CELESTITE: THE MYSTERY SOLVED** For the past two or three years, our club trips to the Pinesburg Quarry near Williamsport, Maryland, have yielded crystallized specimens of pink Dolomite, Quartz, Calcite, Pyrite, and Fluorite. Occasionally perched on these specimens were freestanding blue-green gemmy terminated prisms, mostly in the 13 mm size, but a few actually were recovered about one centimeter in length. The conjecture began as to whether they were Barite or Celestite. Earlier this year I learned from Joe Dague of Chambersburg, PA that several Pennsylvania quarries were producing identical assemblages, including the blue green crystals, and the Pennsylvanians were similarly arguing Barite versus Celestite. Well, X-ray diffraction by Dr. Lance Kearns at James Madison University has had the last word: The crystals from Pinesburg are **BARITE**. For those who labeled them Celestite, its time to change your labels. Contributed by Fred Parker

**REQUEST** for information on additional Medford Quarry minerals. As many of you know, I am writing a series of articles on Maryland mineral locations to record their mineralogy for current and future collectors and science. Having completed articles on the Clarksville Quartz location and Hunting Hill Quarry, I am well into my third effort on the Medford Quarry. As before, I seek information from other collectors as to mineral species or unknowns of which I am not aware so I can present a complete list of the minerals found at Medford and their descriptions. If you think you have any species which are different for Medford Quarry, or potential unknown mineral species from there, I would appreciate hearing from you. Also, I have heard rumors of barite crystals being found at the quarry but have never seen them. If you have collected barite crystals from Medford, I would like to hear from you. You will be given credit in the article for any information which is used. Thank you.



Minerals Known To date: albite, anglesite, aurichalcite, azurite, barite, bornite, calcite, cerussite, chalcocite, chalcophanite, chalcopyrite, epidote, galena, gold, graphite, hematite, hemimorphite, hydrozincite, lanthanite, malachite, pyrite, quartz, sphalerite, todorokite, and wurtzite.

Fred Parker <parkermineral@aol.com>, 240 446 2183

**EVENT** Don't forget the Annual EFMLS Region IV Swap & Picnic See the May *Rockhounder*.



**Directions:** Lake Anna State Park, VA, Shelter #1, Saturday, June 9, 2007, 9 am to 3 pm. I-95 to exit #118, Thornburg, West on Rte 606 to Rte 208, Left onto Rte 208, Continue to Rte 601 and turn Right onto Rte 601 (Turn is just past Lake Anna Marine Supplies & Hardware), Continue on Rte 601 then turn Left into Park. Follow park road to lake. Shelter is around to the left past the park facilities. Swapping, Auction, Door prizes, picnic. Information: call Bill Gilbert, 804-541-8520 or E Mail <Billis4rox@comcast.net>. Go for a fun event.

**DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER** Stamps now also last forever! With little flash and fanfare, The United States Postal Service released its new Forever Stamp on April 12th. The Forever Stamp is non-denominated, non-expiring stamp. It is valid for the first ounce of first class mail letter postage regardless of the actual date of use. For some people this new stamp could add up to some long term savings. The first Forever Stamp is being sold at the new \$0.41 rate. Which forever article would **you** choose: diamonds or stamps? Reminds me: King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash. His country had been at war with the Hittites for years. But he did have the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond at the time. So he decided to take it to Croesus the pawnbroker. When he asked for a loan, Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars." The king quickly objected, "But I paid a million dinars for it. Don't you know who I am? I'm King Ozymandias!" Croesus was unimpressed. He replied, "When you wish to pawn a star, it makes no difference who you are."



**CONJECTURE** It has been announced that UniStar Nuclear is proposing a new atomic energy plant next to the current Calvert Cliffs reactor. They are to apply to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission next year. There is already opposition, of course. Don't hold your breath, it could be 2015 for opening, at the earliest. Calvert County leaders favor the proposition for the added construction and permanent jobs as well as for the added tax base. Anyway the chance exists for fresh excavation into the cliffs uncovering a lot of Miocene fossils.

**DC AREA CLUB INFORMATION** Robert Clemenzi, who along with his wife Nerine, are members of Gem and Mineral Hunters of Virginia in Prince William County, Mineralogical Society of DC, Northern Virginia Mineral Club, and perhaps others. Robert is "A computer guy", has started maintaining a couple of sites for information. Check in for DC Mineral Clubs, Calendar of Events, <[http://mc-computing.com/other/Mineral\\_COE.html](http://mc-computing.com/other/Mineral_COE.html)> and Mineral clubs of the Washington DC area <<http://mc-computing.com/other/DCMineralClubs.html>>. Robert lives in VA and works in Gaithersburg and has attended several of our meetings recently.

**OUTREACH** Rod Towers was the speaker at the Apr. 20th meeting of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Soc. of DC. His presentation was on Pleistocene Vertebrate Fossils, with which he is fully familiar. Thanks for sharing your knowledge with a sister Club, Rod. On June 15th, member Lisa Carp will be the GLMSDC speaker on "Organic Gems, Amber, Jet and more..." Go hear her. Lisa is another member sharing her expertise with another Society. George Durland was at the Piney Branch Elem. School on May 23rd to talk on minerals and fluorescents. Nothing can be more needed than encouragement of the youth in our community.

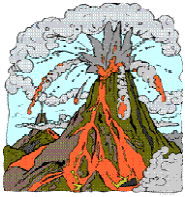


**SALE** Deborah Dubois, one of our club show participants and a guest lecturer, is selling a large lot of miscellaneous jewelry making items on Sunday, June 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (One day only). Material includes forms, ring stretchers, pliers, anvils, hammers, saw frames, ring clamps, and more. All must go. Good prices. 4010 Havard St., Silver Spring MD 20906. Go south on 355 to left on Viers Mill Rd., to left on Randolph Rd., first left on Collie, second right on Barbara Rd., first right- past stop sign to Havard St.---third house on right.

WEB SITES

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr

**Maryland Geological Survey** <<http://www.mgs.md.gov/>> should not be missed. Too far reaching to list everything, you will find MD Geology to contain information on Caves in MD, Gold in MD, Geological maps, and several Fossil topics. Go to Educational resources and find MD's Earth Science Clubs. Publications and Maps, (Many down-loadable), Data, GeoScience Events, and MGS News are all to be explored. Geologists eat lunch at the water table. They get their beer down at the columnar joint. When they fly they go on an alluvial plane, a flood plane, or a coastal plane.



**Volcanoes of the World** <<http://www.swisseduc.ch/stromboli/>>, © Stromboli online, by Jürg Alean, Roberto Carniel, and Marco Fulle was recommended by Erich Grundel. Outstanding! Although the first coverage is heavy on Mount Etna, this site cover 20 major volcanic areas. Apple Quicktime is required for panoramic images in QTVR format. Get the free download at <<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/win.html>>. The site has spectacular photos from 1979-2007 and some video clips. Make virtual climbs up the mountains. Learn about seismic measurements, accidents, the geology of volcanoes. Stereo pictures feature how they were created. There are even Smoke Rings! Links cover travel information, books, and scientific publications. At Mt. St. Helens a new peak is emerging in the center of its crater. It's an emergent-see! They really have a dilemma out there, OSHA now says they must install smoke alarms.

**Gram Faceting** <<http://www.faceters.com/>> by Jeff Graham of Tucson AZ is a commercial site. Of course we do not endorse any specific dealer but this site has a great deal of valuable lapidary facts and data. See Online faceting designs, "Just ask Jeff", Beginner's page, Gemological information, Gemstone pricing Guides, and How to buy gemstones. Lots to absorb here! What kind of incantation do you use to clarify the fracture ridden, cloudy gem rough? "Now listen carefully, I want to make this perfectly clear" One faceter's stones are always rectangles. Why? He never cuts corners. Thanks to Bob Winfield for recommending this site.

UPCOMING SHOWS & SWAPS:

**Aug. 4-5** GLMSDC 58th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Stone Ridge School, 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5 Admission \$6.00, Sr. \$5.00, Under 6 Free. Info.: <[www.GLMSDC.com](http://www.GLMSDC.com)>

**September 15-16** 42nd Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show sponsored by Central PA Rock & Mineral Club. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. NEW Location west of US 15. Sporting Hill Elementary School, 210 S. Sporting Hill Rd., Mechanicsburg PA. Admission \$5.00. Information: <[www.rockandmineral.org](http://www.rockandmineral.org)>.

**September 22-23** 43rd Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship MD, I-70 at MD 32. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Admission \$5.00, 12 and under free with adult. Information: <[www.gemcuttersguild.com](http://www.gemcuttersguild.com)>.

**October 6-7**, 14th Annual Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club Show sponsored by the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club. St. Michael's School, 320 S. Main St., Newark NY, host of the 2007 **EFMLS Convention, Annual Meeting Oct. 5, 2007.**

**MINING MONTGOMERY** Mont. Co. Historical Soc. at 103 W. Mont. Ave., until Sept. 23rd. Tu.-Sa. 12-4. Admission \$3. Students and Seniors \$2. Learn about the history of mining in Montgomery County. Mining has taken place for many years. Gold can be found in the streams. Enough was found in the Great Falls area that a major gold mining operation was built. Native Americans were attracted to the large deposits of soapstone in the NE part of the county. Soapstone bowls and household objects have been discovered locally by archaeologists. Copper is found throughout the county, and mica was heavily mined here at one time.

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Charter Member: Dan Spielman; Life Members: David Ballard, Nancy Ballard, Jack Busch, Larry Harrison, Anna Marcus, Wendell Mohr, Charlotte Morrison, Dan Spielman, and Paul Vance

Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.  
P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444

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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