

REGULAR MEETING 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". Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. **Next meeting: Monday March 12th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45pm 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: "Grand Caverns - A Grand New Discovery". The speaker for this month, Dave Mitchell, has been exploring caves for over 13 years. Grand Caverns, once owned by President James Madison, is the oldest commercial show cave in the US. Located in the Shenandoah Valley of VA, a newly discovered extension of the cave was opened to cavers for videotaping. Our speaker helped produce a DVD, that shows exploration of the extension that is out-of-this world incredible! The area contains huge multi-colored calcite draperies, pure-white flowing "Streams" of calcite, and beautiful rare "Shield" formations. Off limits to the public, this is the only way most people will be able to see it.

Dave Mitchell has been a member of the Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society and the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore for over 7 years. During the day he is a software engineer. As a rockhound, Dave has taken trips out west to collect agates and jaspers and Baker thunder eggs. He has caved well over 50 caves, mostly in WV, but also in PA, VA, MD and several trips out to the Guadalupe's in NM.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Will meet in March 19, 2007 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 CHANGES New Member:

FREEMAN, Dave, 11903 Devilwood Drive, Potomac MD 10854--3410, dhf@umd.edu, 301 762 7329

Correction : CATON, Tom , P. O. Box 2399, Wheaton MD 20915-2399



NEWSLETTER Postal rates are scheduled to rise again shortly. Now is a good time to remind you that if you get the newsletter by E Mail only, in **COLOR !**, it will save the Society printing and mailing costs. Contact the Editor.

Also, home-grown articles for the newsletter are more meaningful for members. Why not sit right down and write a piece about a field trip, collecting experience, book review or other interesting article. The editor will correct any spelling mistakes so don't fret.



SUNSHINE: Our support goes out to Nancy Ballard who had recent surgery and will be having additional chemotherapy starting after the Show. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

And good wishes to Dave Smith who fell on the ice walking his dog and broke the fibula and Tibia at the ankle. He had surgery on February 22nd and will have a soft cast for a couple of months.

DEADLINE for the April 2007 Rockhounder is March 26th.

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES In the absence of President Scott Braley, Vice President Harry Lupuloff called the February 12, 2007 meeting, with about 34 people attending, to order at 7:52 pm. Wendell Mohr emphasized the pressing need for volunteers for the Show and called attention to the signup sheets. He reported that Scott Braley had designated the last open dealer space. He Encouraged members to exhibit and stressed junior participation and the Lillian Turner award. He reported the request from Jeff Nagy for the loan of Montgomery County mineral specimens for a talk he is giving at the Montgomery Historical Society on March 4th, and also the offer to photograph local minerals for the update to "*Minerals of the Washington, D.C. Area*" By L. R. Bernstein which is the MD Geological Survey booklet Educational Series #5. He said that he had Wildacres workshop application forms for anyone wanting them. He solicited a Secretary for the unfilled position. He reported the illness of Nancy Ballard. He referred to the upcoming shows listed in the newsletter. Heather Felsen said she now has applications for 20 Show exhibits (We need about 40) and 3 fluorescent exhibits. Treasurer, Juan Proaño reported the good position of the treasury. He said the Show venue rental has been paid. A visitor, Dave Freeman, applied for membership and was unanimously elected. Cynthia Hunter-Shupe visited and plans to join at the next meeting.

Harry introduced the evening's speaker, Julie Marsteller, a teacher from Herbert Hoover Middle School who was among only a dozen teachers country wide to have been invited to take part in the Integrated Ocean Drilling Project. She told of the ships involved, the now retired Glomar Challenger, and a new large Japanese ship. The project is long term, having been funded by the NSF and other foreign and domestic entities for over 30 years. She sailed on the JOIDES Resolution and showed fine digital pictures of the work done, explaining the methods used to drill, retrieve and study cores of siliceous and calcareous rocks and fossils. She described the derrick to hoist the drilling pipes and the hole through the ship positioned over the drilling site, and the requirement that they be accurately positioned within 2% of the depth where drilling. GPS and Sonar are very essential tools. Heavy seas prevented the drill operation while she was there but they worked on the study of drill cores and gathering data from the work. It included studies of the types of rocks and fossils found and magnetic polarity directions. She told of the funnel shaped cone around a drilled hole and the "Corking" when instruments are sealed in the hole with cement. Temperature, and "Ocean water" flow are monitored. Studies have increased knowledge of mid ocean floor spreading, plate tectonics and information at the plate boundaries, and the KT (Cretaceous Tertiary) boundary, now being called by some the Cretaceous-Paleogene (KP) boundary. You may learn more at the web site at <http://www.iodp.org/>.



After a short break, the meeting reconvened. Anita James requested input for a possible bus trip to NYC and the American Museum of Natural History. No other field trips are currently planned. Don Turner emphasized the need for Workshop volunteers and told again of Paul Vance's offer to teach cabbing to people who can instruct at the show. George Durland has made up postcards and had promotional material available. George also made a plea for help for the Montgomery Area Science Fair March 17th. Each junior again received a shark tooth and a rock. Show Table discussions, UV demonstrations, and Prize drawings took place and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 pm.

Secretary Pro Tem Wendell Mohr

BOARD MEETING MINUTES The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm on February 24th, 2007 by President, Scott Braley, at the Proaño's home. Present: Board members Nancy Ballard, Scott Braley, Anita James, Harry Lupuloff, Wendell Mohr, and Juan Proaño, Non Board member John James. Scott reported that the last dealer space was committed to Tin Nwe, dba Moe Moe Fine Jewelry. Payment was made to the Fairgrounds, for table and chair rentals and for Gold Shield security totaling \$8700. Trailer transportation is to be finalized. [Scott had talked with Heather Felsen and reported Exhibits and Demonstrations are OK. Juan gave Nancy list of dealers and she needs exhibitor and demonstrator's names for the program. Scott said that Paul Vance had the audit in progress and that everything is in order. He will be making two recommendations for improvement.

Juan reported that all dealer contracts and payments have been received, \$11040 for table rental. He reported the current checking, savings and CD's balances. In addition to the \$8700 above, the meeting room rent and publicity expenses were paid. Juan requested approval of the expenditure of \$21.13 for a thumb drive for Treasurer's reports storage. It was moved seconded, and the board unanimously approved the motion. (Continued on Page 3)

MARCH MEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Judith Barr, Jack Busch, Leila Campbell, Rebecca Dahlman, George Durland, Julia Harris, Jane Kuehn, Mary Beth Mason, Patricia Repik-Byrne, Paul Vance, and Harold Williams. **March's Birthstone, Aquamarine:** The light blue of this fine beryl finds more and more friends. The different shades of Aquamarine are distinguished by their own promising names: "Santa Maria" is the name for the rare, intensely deep blue Aquamarines found in the Santa Maria de Itabira mine in Brazil, and they are bound to cause excitement among gemstone lovers in general. Similar colors are found in some of the sparse Aquamarine gemstone mines in Africa, especially in Mozambique. In order to better distinguish them, these Aquamarines are denoted as "Santa Maria Africana." Not quite as deeply blue are "Espirito Santo" Aquamarines from the Brazilian state of Espirito Santo. Another beautiful color has been named in honor of a Brazilian beauty queen from 1954, and has become famous as "Martha Rocha." The names of the colors already point out the importance of Brazil as the main country where Aquamarines are found. Most of the rough crystals on the world market come from the gemstone mines of this huge South American country. From time to time, large Aquamarine crystals of immaculate transparency and splendid color are found here, a rare occurrence indeed where these gemstones are concerned. Now and then even sensationally large crystals are found, such as in 1910 at Maraimba/ Minas Gerais, where a 110.5 kg. crystal was mined. Or there is the "Dom Pedro" weighing 26 kg., which was cut in 1992 by Idar-Oberstein gemstone artist Bernd Munsteiner, thus achieving the title of largest-ever cut Aquamarine. © by ICA Gem Bureau Idar-Oberstein, via Tomoka Coquina 3/04 via Roseville Rock Rollers Mar. 2005



BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Continued from Page 2) Nancy reported that 2372 postcards for the show have been mailed. Scott believes he can translate the postcard address data base from Charlie Zellers to a more modern program. Wendell reported that the Society brochure was revised and 300 printed for the show. He also made up new exhibitor and demonstrator certificates. Nancy has made up the \$10 exhibitor certificates which can be redeemed at dealers. The letter to the Fairgrounds about our involuntary date change will be written after the show by Scott. We do have the 3rd week in March reserved for 2008. Authorization was made by a quorum of the Directors at the regular meeting to purchase specimens for prizes for the "Rockhound quiz" for \$150. There are still a lot of volunteer slots to be filled for the show and they will be highlighted in the *Rockhounder*.

Harry Lupuloff has volunteered to help at the Science Fair on March 17th. Others are solicited to help.

Anita reported that the NYC trip has only 18 people interested, not enough to justify the charter bus rental. It was agreed that a date will be picked and that members and friends could take the Vamoose bus on their own, leaving and returning to Bethesda for \$25 each way. The Society will pay for the admission to the American Museum of Natural History. Her contact, Bill Metropolis, is no longer with the Harvard Mineral Museum and the additional day to Boston would not be practical. Jennifer Wingard has secured 6 slots for a trip to the Lee Creek Mine in Aurora NC on April 15th.

The status of the 501C3 application is still unknown, awaiting word from IRS. Harry reported that Dave Mitchell will present the March program titled "Lights, Camera, Crawl" about speleology. Tentatively Rob Robinson will speak on Maine minerals in April, Cathy Gaber in May, and Wayne Sukow on Agates in October. Harry raised the issue of the Society purchasing a digital projector since nearly everyone now has converted to that media. Harry will first check if one is available at the Senior Center. If not, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to purchase one. Scott will investigate alternatives. Heather Felsen submitted a request for consideration for the scholarship to Wildacres Workshop, and was unanimously selected to receive the award, pending completion of the session. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. Secretary Pro Tem, Wendell Mohr



He carves all kinds of cats out of Soapstone (Steatite). Is he good? He's purrfect!

FEBRUARY PRIZES: The Junior Prize, A Quartz from Diamond Hill SC, was won by Rory McElravy. The General Door Prize, won by Eric Kindahl, was a set of bookends made of Brazilian Tieta Singularis, a giant tree fern, of Permian age 250-280 million years old. Rod Towers won the Show Table Prize, a Scheelite from China.



SNOW CONTINGENCY Hopefully a last Reminder: If schools in the county are cancelled, or let out early, because of weather on the day of the meeting, there will be no meeting. Call the President or a Board Member if in doubt. Pray for no snow March 10-11!



LAST CALL FOR SPRING WILDACRES

In a few short weeks, many of your fellow enthusiasts will be heading off to NC for the first of two scheduled EFMLS Wildacres Workshops. The first, Apr. 20—26, will feature Rock & Gem Senior Editor Bob Jones. One of his talks will be about his recent trip to China. He’s quite excited about being able to share some of his experiences during the week-long workshop. There are still a few spaces left for you but you need to act quickly. Visit the EFMLS website <www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm> to download an application form, see class descriptions, and a 2 page brochure. (Wendell Mohr or Scott Braley also have hard copies from the EFMLS Newsletter.) The fall session, Sept. 10 - 16, will feature Dr. Steve Chamberlain as “Speaker in Residence”. Some spaces remain for that session as well. Cost for either session is a modest \$330 per person which includes room and board. If you’ve never been to an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, you are urged to take advantage of this marvelous opportunity. Adapted from Steve Weinberger, Functioning Committee Chair



SHOW TABLE

February 12, 2007 * = Self-collected

Jack Busch	Cucullaea Gigantea Clam Fossil*	Prince Georges County MD
Jeff Cessna	Pennsylvanian Fossils*	St. Louis MO
Eric Durland	Fluorite*	Pogo Prospect, Middle Fork of the Salmon River ID
George Durland	Quartz variety Chalcedony Geode	Dugway UT
Heather Felsen	Peridot	Big Island Hawaii
Jonathan Harris	Fossil, possibly cone*	Near Muirkirk MD
Alexandra Kindahl	Magnetite, Green Calcite, Chalcopyrite, Schorl, Amazonite, Citrine, and Jasper	Locality Unknown
Eric Kindahl	Serpentine	Easton PA
	Marialite (Fluorescent)	Quebec
Jane Kuehn	Selenite	Probably Mexico
	Goethite	Montreal WI
David MacLean	Rocks and Sand*	Baja California Sur, Mexico
Rory McElravy	Desert Rose Crystals	Locality Unknown
Wendell Mohr	Opal book English Version of Extra Lapis	Published by Lithographie LLC
George Reimherr	Talc*	Hunting Hill Q. Rockville MD
Joel Rosen	Apophyllite with Stilbite	Jalgaon, India
	Calcite	Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico
	Granite	Table Mtn., Cape Town S. Africa
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens	Various

MAKING A ROCK SLAB STAND

Cut a wire coat hanger at each end of the bottom (Fig. 1). Bend the straight piece of wire at a 90 degree angle at two points, each bend being made one inch from the wire's mid-point (Fig 2). Next, bend both ends evenly at 2 to 3 inches and with pliers curl up each end (Fig 3).



Cut Fig. 1



Bend Fig. 2



Bend Fig 3



Adapted From Rocky Reader, Dec. 1991 via Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada Spring 2006

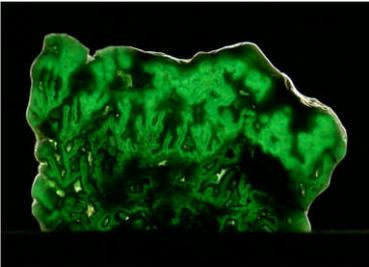
Q. Why do people wear Shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?
 A. Regular rocks are too heavy.



From Quarry Quips, Wichita Gem & Mineral Society, March 2006

ANOTHER CALL FOR HELP!!: A Society Secretary is still desperately needed. We need a 2008 Show Chairman. Let President Scott Braley know which of these needs you will fill and/or get more information. George Durland can use more help for the Science Fair Committee on March 17th. Call him if you can help at 301 299 8213 or E Mail <GDurland1@verizon.net>.

NEW MINERALS FOUND IN WYOMING: Two minerals that were previously unreported in Wyoming, were found by a collector and identified by the Wyoming State Geological Survey. These include two minerals collected from Cedar Mountain near Cody by member **Robert Bratton** and sent to the WSGS for X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis. Bob says it has been several years ago. The first mineral from Cedar Mountain is dark green, with massive to octahedral habit, that appears to fill breccia voids with prismatic quartz in a white to gray, siliceous host rock. The XRD pattern confirmed the mineral as variscite $[\text{Al}(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}]$. Other localities for this mineral include Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, Arkansas, Western Australia, Brazil, and Europe. The second mineral from Cedar Mountain fills a fracture in a white, fine-to-medium-grained sandstone. This mineral is light green with nodular, acicular, radiating crystals. The mineral was confirmed as minyulite $[\text{KAl}(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{OH},\text{F}) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ by XRD analysis. The *Encyclopedia of Minerals* reports only one other occurrence at Dandaragan, Western Australia! Bob says that credit for the original mineral discovery is really not his. He was talking to an old time rockhouser who told him about tiny emeralds on a particular mountain near Cody, Wyoming. Bob spent quite a bit of time looking around the mountain and did find some old diggings where he collected samples which turned out to be the minyulite and variscite minerals. When he went back a year later for more collecting, the small deposit was worked out and nothing was left.



Bob says "I cut a small slice of minyulite from the host rock. It is so pretty with some of the material being very transparent to translucent. Toward the bottom of the radiating crystal structure the material is somewhat dense with minimal inclusions or veining. Though soft, it is my hope to find just enough reasonably clear material to make a faceted gemstone. It does take a nice polish. The photo doesn't show the real transparency of the minyulite but the beautiful green color is true. The slice is approximately one and one-half inches across and about three-sixteenth of an inch thick. A little back lighting was used to take the picture. I've not had much luck getting lapidary material from the small amount of variscite I brought back from Cedar Mountain. Much of the variscite is thin layered on the surface of the host rock."

Bob has been active indoors as well as out. He crafted this bracelet and says "I burned up lots of silver in the process, using three different grades (Melting point temperatures) of solder in the process. The gemstone is epidotized granite from the Big Horn Mts. In Wyoming. Collectors around Virginia are big on unakite, a local mineral. I prefer the Wyoming type." Thanks for sharing your finds and work, Bob.



A NICE NOTE From last month's speaker, Julie Marsteller:

Hi, I have to tell you I really enjoyed the meeting myself, presenting was fun, thanks for the opportunity. There's no doubt that I'll be joining (Editor: The Society) and attending the show. I am again going to make it extra credit for students who attend, my colleagues here will as well. Besides attending for my own interests, I'm going to learn to polish cabs and volunteer on Saturday. Please pass on my note of thanks and appreciation to the Group.

Julie

SAFETY FIRST - EYE SAFETY

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair



Eye hazards include ultraviolet light from the sun on the way to and while on field trips, protection from flying particles at collecting sites, and from chemicals, fumes, vapors, gases, dust, and particles back at home in the shop.

Safety Glasses, also known as spectacles, have heavy frames and impact resistant lenses, usually of polycarbonate, to provide protection from flying particles and if tinted will also provide protection from lasers, ultraviolet light, and sunlight. Do not use tinted lenses indoors where vision may be impaired. Safety glasses can be fitted with the same corrective lenses as available in normal Glasses.

Safety glasses should be fitted with side shields or have built in side shields to provide protection from particles entering the eyes from a side angle. Safety glasses should be fitted to the eye and bridge size and temple length and should fit comfortably over the eyes. The frame should be close to the face and supported by the bridge of the nose. Keep safety glasses clean and clear of scratches and if damaged, discard. Store in a dry clean place where they can not fall or be stepped on.

Safety goggles provide a secure shield around the entire eye area to provide against hazards coming from many different directions and spread the force of impact over a larger area around the eyes and are worn in addition to safety glasses. Safety Goggles should also have impact resistant lenses and are available tinted or with fog free coatings if required and can be vented or indirectly vented to provide protection from splash hazards.

Face Shields are required when pouring hot liquids, using acids to clean rocks or fossils, breaking rocks with hand or mechanical equipment, and while dressing grinding wheels. Face Shields are worn with Safety Glasses and Safety Goggles and are available with protective head gear and chemical hoods.

Select the proper level of eye protection prior to starting any activity. Remember that bypassing a level of eye protection because "It will only take a second and I will be careful" could cost you one of your most precious possessions, your eyesight.

CONTINUING WITH '89 The year was not a happy one for fossil collectors.

Mike Ellwood wrote a comprehensive article for the June Rockhoulder in which he told of the loss of a collecting site in Prince George's County, just off Routes 1-395 and MD 202, that had been a source of many fossils of the Cretaceous Period and Paleocene Epoch. Among such fossils were large specimens of the ammonite *Sphenodiscus lenticularis* and the nautiloid *Eutrochoceres deKay*, along with many small specimens of *Baculites* of which some contained calcite crystals. Alas, as with so many other locations, this one now was covered with buildings and blacktop. One can only hope that at such time as this construction is razed an opportunity will arise to once more dig for millennia-old material before the new construction begins. Don't laugh, for a very short time this occurred when the Capital Center was torn down. That site also had been a fossil deposit, possibly of the same formation.

At June's meeting Stephanie Hald was elected to membership. Little did she know at the time that she was to be Show Chairman a few years later. President Juan Proaño reported he had been in Bolivia, and while walking down the street at one place he was approached by two little boys carrying a bag of trilobites they were trying to sell. Of course, he bought some (Wouldn't you?), and he donated one to the Society to be given as a door prize. Jerry Hecht was the lucky winner.

The program at June's meeting was presented by Siv Genella, one of the members of The Brass Ring. The "Ring" consisted of five persons (Renata deCapatini, Barbara Dunn, Julie Marcia, Joanne Turner, and Siv) who designed and created distinctive brass, silver metal, and copper one-of-a-kind jewelry incorporating beads, fiber, and other objects including gems and minerals. She told how the group came into being and a bit of their history. She had brought several samples of their work.

Scheduled field trips were to Medley Quarry PA in June and to St. Leonard MD in July, but I could find no reports of finds or participation. A field trip of a different sort was made in August when 11 members went on a guided tour of the Smithsonian's National Gem Collection, including the famous Blue Room. That "Room" contained specimens of exquisite jewelry items which were awaiting their (Continued on page 7)



CONTINUING WITH '89 (Continued from page 6) turn to be on public display.

The Society suffered a great loss in July due to the death of Dian Beckman. She and husband Fritz had gone to Canada to do some collecting and while there she was stricken with a heart attack. Dian had served the Society in many roles, official and otherwise, among them Vice President, Secretary, Show Chair, Field Trip Chair, and in addition, she made many visits to local schools to tell the students of the joys of our hobby. In her memory a donation was made to the Heart Fund.

In the year's July/August Rockhounder, Editor Nancy Ballard included an item from another bulletin about a 43,000-year-old mine that had been discovered in South Africa. From the evidence found, although the main ore was hematite, it was not used for metallic purposes but rather as a body paint! Nancy also included something in that issue that really applies to me: "Those who are proud of keeping an orderly desk never know the thrill of finding something thought to have been irretrievably lost." See you at the Show!

Jack Busch

FIELD TRIPS No field trips are currently scheduled for March. If you do not have E Mail, get in touch with the Field Trip Chair Anita James to inquire about trips not yet listed at 301 652 5527 or E Mail <johnjames04@comcast.net>. If trips to Medford Quarry near Westminster MD, Pinesburg Quarry near Williamsport MD, or Hunting Hill Quarry in Rockville are scheduled on short notice and you are unable to get in touch with Anita, contact Fred Parker 301 662 0751, E Mail <Parkermineral@aol.com>. Anita reminds us that if you leave a message on her answering machine be certain to leave your phone number. Some people have not and she had no way to get back to you.



Jennifer Wingard is our contact person for Miocene fossil collecting in NC. She is pleased to announce that the club has received 6 slots at the Lee Creek Mine at Aurora for April 15th. She will fill the slots on a first come-first served basis. E Mail her at <xtlresearch@yahoo.com> or phone 540 832 5195. It is imperative that those who sign up have current club membership. Minimum age 18. Those who sign up should be 98%+ sure they will be able to make it as a number of times folks have cancelled, leaving her scrambling to find folks to fill spots at the last minute. If folks don't show, Phosphate Corporation of Saskatchewan, PCS, subtracts spots from club requests allowed (We used to get 8 slots at Aurora and now we only get 6). She has full information and directions.

Eighteen members have indicated to Anita interest in visiting the American Museum of Natural History in NYC. This is not enough to justify a chartered bus. She will select a date and notify people by the April *Rockhounder*. Attendees can take the Vamoose bus from/to Bethesda for \$25 each way. (Or take Amtrak.) Some members might want to go early or stay late and stay overnight in the city. Others will make it a one day excursion. The Society will pay for the admission to the American Museum of Natural History. Ticket prices include admission to the Museum and the *Gold Special Exhibition*. Adults: \$21.00, Children (2-12): \$12.00, Senior/Student with ID: \$16.00, Member Adult: \$10.00, Member Child \$6.00. IMAX theater is not included. Meals would be at your own expense. The museum also has world renown fossils and minerals on display. The trip will not include going to Cambridge MA to the Harvard Mineral Museum

OUR GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW IS MARCH 10-11, at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.

This is BEFORE the March meeting. As of this writing we need 14 more exhibit cases. Get your completed form in to Heather Felsen, Exhibits Chair. Shop leader, Don Turner, still needs shop instructors, especially for Sunday. Give him a call at 301 424 8616. If you've not done this before he will train you first thing Saturday morning. Currently only one person signed up for "Touch & Give-away Table", Raffle Table, and Hospitality Table duty each day. A couple more people are needed to handle admissions on Sunday. We always need able-bodied people to help set up and take down. More hands make the job easier. For any of these jobs call Nancy Ballard at 301 926 7190 to say "YES, I'll help". If every local member does their part we will have another successful show. Volunteers do get free admission to the show. Now is your last chance for advertising and promoting the show. Widely distribute posters and fliers. Tell your friends. Please support our Show Chairman, Scott Braley fully. It depends on **YOU**.

UPCOMING SHOWS:**March 20-11 OUR SHOW—DON'T MISS**

March 24 Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Southern MD Rock and Mineral Club, Clearwater Nature Center, Cosca Regional Park, 11000 Thrift Rd., Clinton MD.

March 24-25 29th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club, Quality Inn & Suites, I-81 at exit 14, Wayne Ave., Chambersburg PA.

March 30-April 1 Atlantic Micromounters Conference, Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, MD Hospital Association Conference Center, Elkridge MD. Information: <cscrytals2@verizon.net>

April 12-15 Rochester Mineral Symposium, Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623, Early Registration Deadline March 12, 2007. E-mail contact: <contactrms@hotmail.com>

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH: George Durland will make a presentation titled “Fluorescent, Phosphorescent and Tenebrescent minerals of the World” to the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of the District of Columbia on March 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., at Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW, Chevy Chase, MD. George graduated from Cornell in Electrical Engineering. After two years in the Navy he worked in software development for large mainframe computer systems, mainly for agencies of the Federal Government. George worked at IBM for 33 years and inherited many fluorescent and other minerals from his father who worked at the New Jersey Zinc Co. in Franklin NJ. He has been collecting and showing fluorescent minerals since about 1972. Thanks George. It is commendable to share your knowledge and also praiseworthy for making a program presentation for a “Sister” club. Thanks also for your service as a past officer of our Society and current Publicity work you are doing.



A BIT ABOUT OUR VICE PRESIDENT: Harry Lupuloff received a BS in Electrical Engineering from Washington University, and a Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University. For the past two and a half years he has worked as an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel, Department of the Air Force, and previous to that he was at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Headquarters Office of the General Counsel. He practices in the areas of intellectual property, technology transfer, and acquisition law.



He is a member of the state bars of NY, NJ, and DC. Additionally, he is admitted to practice as an attorney before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. His interest in geology and collecting minerals is just beginning, and it stems from son Zachary's interest in rock collecting. Zachary is the true rockhound in his family. Zachary is ten years old and in the fifth grade. He has been interested in collecting rocks from an early age, but his interest in the hobby peaked when we met a member of the GLMSMC last year on Earth Day at the Rockville Quarry. Zachary has many other interests, including computers, playing the piano, and robots.

CANADIAN SNOWFLAKE SILVER DOLLAR: The 2006 Sterling Silver Dollar and Holiday Carols compact disk is offered only as a set including a spectacular colored snowflake (Yes, Virginia, snow is a mineral!) sterling silver dollar coin, and a CD of favorite holiday carols and a picture frame.

Coin specifications

Face Value: 1 dollar (colored)

Composition: 92.5% Silver, 7.5% Copper

Weight (g): 7.0

Diameter (mm): 26.50

Edge: 11 sided

Finish: Proof



Item #624466 is available for \$34.95 (Canadian dollars) from the Royal Canadian Mint, snail mail: 320 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A0G8, or internet: <<http://www.mint.ca/>>.

WEB SITES

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr
Sit Right Down and Check These Out

Black River Fossils, Fossil Hunting and all things Fossil Related, <<http://www.blackriverfossils.org/>>, was started by ditchweezil (Screen name) of Summerville, South Carolina and is maintained by a small group of fossil hunters from the low country of SC. Largely featuring SC shark's teeth, but including other locales and fossil types and thousands of photos, I found that FL, NC, MD, NJ, and CA are represented. The site is worthy of note, however it is punctuated with too many pop-ups and advertisements in my opinion. A dealer offered a fossil crinoid stalk for sale. There was some government opposition. It was a stem sell.



Gemstone Artist, <<http://www.gemstoneartist.com/>>, is by John Bailey, a dealer. No endorsements are made here. See How Gems are Cut and Repaired, FAQ about Gem Rough, and Faceting Designs. Under Custom Faceting you will see some of his original designs with PDF documents listing cutting angles. Some interesting articles about gemstone identification and his adventures are included under News & Articles. You may subscribe to his free newsletter. Of course he offers custom faceting, gems and jewelry for sale. He is world renowned for drilling diamonds. What a boring job!

Smorf Java Crystals, <<http://www.smorf.nl/>> is a visually amazing site where you can have fun.

Although I am certain about this URL, Google gave me no results. The Yahoo.com search engine found it so you may have the same experience. If you do not have Java, you can get it free by clicking the upper right logo. This is a crystal Drawing program by Mark, and brother Luc, Holtkamp, from the Netherlands. With over 600 crystals shown, there are single and twins (Gimme a double, on the rocks) represented. I found the large size too big for the monitor screen when given a choice of small, medium, or large crystals. You may rotate the 3-D crystals viewing them from all angles. Note: all material on this web site is copyrighted. Someone reported that Gypsum (Selenite) crystals were forming rapidly from solutions in the ground. Detectives were called but there was no hard evidence yet.



Japanese Twins

TWINNED MINERAL CRYSTALS can add a fascinating side to ordinary minerals or can add another dimension to already complex minerals. There are several minerals that form classic twins, such as chalcocite, fluorite, sanidine, microcline, staurolite, gypsum, cinnabar, spinel, and rutile to name a few. Some twins have colloquial names, such as 'fairy cross', 'iron cross', ['Japanese twins' too-Ed.] and 'cogwheel' twins. Twins form as a result of an error during crystallization. Instead of a normal single crystal, twins grow out of or into each other. Accidental relationships are not considered twins, that is, where two distinct crystals grow more or less randomly side-by-side or toward each other. Twin formation is never random and follows certain defined rules called twin laws, usually named for well known twins, Spinel law, Albite law, etc. The twin laws are crystallographic in nature and are caused by flaws in the crystal structure occurring during growth or change in phase. Many minerals form with a stacking sequence. If an error occurs during growth the twin forms as a miss-positioned sequence, which is repeated as if nothing happened. The crystal(s) grow outward in both directions. Twinning has dramatic effect on the outward symmetry of the mineral. There are two general types of twin styles, contact and penetration. Contact twins have a composition plane that forms the boundary between them, a mirror plane where the twins look like reflected images or an angled plane resulting in a 'bend' to the twin forming dove-tails, fishtails and chevrons. Penetration twins look like whoever made the crystal didn't know how it was supposed to fit and ended up twin crosses, 3-D stars, and complex structures. Twinning is actually rather common in the mineral kingdom, but perfectly formed twins are not. Ref: Excerpt <<http://galleries.com/>>, via GEM-N-I Newsletter, 7/03, via Petrograph, 3/04, via Breccia 2/07.

Quarry Cop, sighting a trespassing collector: "Are you going to come quietly or do I have to use earplugs?"

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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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